



Poem-1

The Comet

(வால்நட்சத்திரம்)
Norman Littleford



A. Read the following lines and answer the questions. (TB-96)

1. *Rampaging through the heavens*

Never stopping day or night,

a) How does the comet travel?

The comet travels **without stopping day or night.**

b) Which word could you replace 'rampaging' with?

a) charging b) rolling c) **speeding** d) flying

2. *Faster than a cheetah*

With a tail that's miles long,

a) Why is the comet compared to a cheetah?

Cheetah is the fastest animal. So the comet is compared to it.

b) Whose tail is compared here?

Comet's tail is compared here.

3. *With shockwave reaching to the ground*

Causing the land to quake

a) What is reaching to the ground?

Shock wave is reaching to the ground

b) What is causing the land to quake?

Shock wave is causing the land to quake.

4. *In the dust they leave behind,*

Could have started life on the earth

Which resulted in mankind

a) What does the word 'they' refer to?

The word 'they' refers to **the comets.**

b) According to scientists, how did life start on earth?

According to scientists, **life on earth could have started from the chemicals in the dust which the comets leave behind.**

5. *But I know no better spectacle*

Than a comet in full flight.

a) Who does 'I' refer to?

'I' refers to **the poet** (Norman Littleford)

b) What is the best spectacle mentioned in the above lines?

The best spectacle mentioned in the above lines is **a comet in full flight.**

B. Complete the summary by filling in the given spaces with suitable words/ phrases given below

a trail	best spectacular	spectacular scene	outer ice	a cheetah
day or night	emerging of life	powerful and strong	shock wave	scientists

The poet describes a moving comet which speeds through the heavens and never takes a break by **day or night**. When a comet is in full flight, it gives a **spectacular scene** which can never be compared to anything else for a lifetime. The comet is compared to **a cheetah** for its speed and a mountain as it is **powerful and strong**. The

outer ice melts which causes a vapour from the force and leaves behind **a trail** as it travels on its way. If it comes very close to the atmosphere, it causes a shake which in turn produces a **shock wave** that reach the Earth's surface. According to the **scientists** the comets leave behind chemicals in the form of dust which resulted in the **emerging of life** on earth and mankind came into existence. But the poet is not sure whether this principle is true or not but he knows for sure that whatever the truth may be, the sight of the comet in full flight is the **best spectacular**.

C. Poem appreciation

1. If one should come too close to earth

*The atmosphere will shake,
With shock wave reaching to the ground
Causing the land to quake.*

1. Pick out the rhyming words.

shake, quake

2. Mention the rhyme scheme of the stanza.

a b c b

3. When you read the poem aloud, you can feel/hear a rhythm. What according to you gives rhythm to the poem- the rhymes or the words in a line. Support your answer with examples from the poem.

The words give rhythm to the poem. Ex: shake – quake, shake – shock, ground – land

D. Answer the following questions in about 80-100 words.

1. Narrate how the poet describes the comet.

The poet describes a moving comet which speeds through the heavens. It never takes a break by day or night. When a comet is in full flight, it gives a spectacular scene. The comet is compared to a cheetah for its speed and a mountain as it is powerful and strong. The outer ice melts which causes a vapour from the force and leaves behind a trail as it travels on its way. If it comes very close to the atmosphere, it causes a shake which in turn produces a shock wave that reach the Earth's surface. According to the scientists, the comets leave behind chemicals in the form of dust which resulted in the emerging of life on earth and thus mankind came into existence. But the poet is not sure whether this principle is true or not. But he enjoys the spectacular sight of the comet in full flight.

2. Give a detailed account of the various effects caused by the comet to the earth.

When a comet is in full flight, it gives a spectacular scene. It can never be compared to anything else for a lifetime. The comet is compared to a cheetah for its speed and a mountain as it is powerful and strong. The outer ice melts which causes a vapour from the force and leaves behind a trail as it travels on its way. If it comes very close to the atmosphere, it causes a shake which in turn produces a shock wave that reach the Earth's surface causing it to quake. According to the scientists, the comets leave behind chemicals in the form of dust which resulted in the emerging of life on earth and thus mankind came into existence.

Paragraph for slow learners

- The poet describes a moving comet.
- Comet in full flight is a spectacular scene.
- The comet travels fast like a cheetah.
- It is compared to a mountain for its power.
- The outer ice melts and causes a vapour from the force.
- It leaves behind a trail as it travels on its way.
- Scientists believe that life on earth could have started from the dust which the comets leave behind.