

Read the passage carefully and answer the questions following it.

Unit-11: Lesson-1

Books

– Eleanor Farjeon

What worlds of wonder are our books!
As one opens them and looks,
New ideas and people rise
In our fancies and our eyes.

The room we sit in melts away,
And we find ourselves at play
With someone who, before the end,
May become our chosen friend.

Or we sail along the page
To some other land or age.
Here's our body in the chair,
But our mind is over there.

Each book is a magic box,
Which with a touch a child unlocks.
In between their outside covers
Books hold all things for their lovers.

1st Stanza

Line:

What worlds of wonder are our books!

Translation:

কি বিস্ময়কর জগতই না রয়েছে আমাদের বইয়ে!

Explanation:

বই যেন এক আশ্চর্য জগৎ, যা আমাদের নতুন অভিজ্ঞতা দেয়।

Line:

As one opens them and looks,

Translation:

যেইমাত্র কেউ বই খুলে তাকায়,

Explanation:

বই খুললেই এক নতুন কল্পনার জগতে প্রবেশ ঘটে।

Line:

New ideas and people rise

Translation:

নতুন ধারণা ও মানুষ ভেসে ওঠে

Explanation:

বই পড়ে আমরা নতুন চিন্তা ও চরিত্রের সাথে পরিচিত হই।

Line:

In our fancies and our eyes.

Translation:

আমাদের কল্পনা ও চোখের সামনে।

Explanation:

বই পড়ার সময় কল্পনায় আমরা সবকিছু দেখতে পাই।

2nd Stanza

Line:

The room we sit in melts away,

Translation:

যে ঘরে আমরা বসে থাকি, তা যেন গলে যায়,

Explanation:

বই পড়তে পড়তে আশেপাশের জগৎ ভুলে যাই।

Line:

And we find ourselves at play

Translation:

আর আমরা নিজেকে খেলায় মেতে উঠতে দেখি

Explanation:

বইয়ের জগতে ঢুকে আমরা গল্পের চরিত্রদের সাথে একাত্ম হই।

Line:

With someone who, before the end,

Translation:

কারো সাথে, যে গল্পের শেষ হওয়ার আগেই

Explanation:

গল্পের কোনো চরিত্র আমাদের খুব আপন হয়ে যায়।

Line:

May become our chosen friend.

Translation:

আমাদের নির্বাচিত বন্ধু হয়ে ওঠে।

Explanation:

গল্পের কোনো চরিত্র আমাদের প্রিয় বন্ধু হয়ে যেতে পারে।

3rd Stanza**Line:**

Or we sail along the page

Translation:

অথবা আমরা পৃষ্ঠার সাথে ভেসে যাই

Explanation:

বইয়ের প্রতিটি পৃষ্ঠা যেন আমাদের ভ্রমণের নৌকা।

Line:

To some other land or age.

Translation:

অন্য কোনো দেশ বা যুগে।

Explanation:

বই আমাদের অন্য সময় বা স্থানে নিয়ে যায়।

Line:

Here's our body in the chair,

Translation:

আমাদের দেহটা চেয়ারে বসে থাকে,

Explanation:

শরীর বই পড়ার জায়গায় থাকলেও...

Line:

But our mind is over there.

Translation:

কিন্তু মন থাকে দূরে, গল্পের জগতে।

Explanation:

মন বইয়ের জগতে হারিয়ে যায়।

4th Stanza**Line:**

Each book is a magic box,

Translation:

প্রতিটি বই যেন এক যাদুর বাক্স,

Explanation:

বইয়ের মধ্যে অনেক বিস্ময়কর বিষয় লুকিয়ে থাকে।

Line:

Which with a touch a child unlocks.

Translation:

যা একটি শিশুর স্পর্শেই খুলে যায়।

Explanation:

একটু ইচ্ছা বা আগ্রহ থাকলেই যে কেউ বইয়ের জাদু অনুভব করতে পারে।

Line:

In between their outside covers

Translation:

বইয়ের বাইরের মলাটের মাঝে

Explanation:

বইয়ের মলাটের ভেতরেই সব জাদু লুকিয়ে।

Line:

Books hold all things for their lovers.

Translation:

বইপ্রেমীদের জন্য সবকিছু ধারণ করে বই।

Explanation:

যারা বই ভালোবাসে, তাদের জন্য বইয়ের ভেতরে জ্ঞান, কল্পনা ও আনন্দের ভাণ্ডার থাকে।

1. How does the poet use the metaphor of a “magic box” to describe books?
2. Why does the poet say that “the room we sit in melts away” when we read?
3. In what way can a character in a book become our “chosen friend”?
4. What does the phrase “our mind is over there” reveal about the power of reading?
5. Why do you think the poet emphasizes imagination (“in our fancies and our eyes”)?
6. How does the poem show that books provide both knowledge and emotional connection?
7. What role does fantasy play in the experience of reading, according to the poem?
8. How does the poet contrast physical stillness with mental movement in the poem?
9. Why does the poet use the phrase “sail along the page”? What image does it create?
10. What qualities make a book appealing to children, as suggested by the poet?
11. How does the poet portray the relationship between a reader and the book?
12. Why do you think books are said to “hold all things for their lover”?
13. How does the poem highlight the transformative power of books?
14. In what ways does reading a book resemble going on an adventure?
15. How is the act of reading shown as a form of escape in the poem?
16. What emotions do the poet associate with reading, and how are they conveyed?
17. Why do you think the poet chose a child to “unlock” the magic of books?

18. What does the poem suggest about the timeless nature of books?
19. How does the poet use rhyme and rhythm to enhance the magical feel of the poem?
20. In your opinion, what message does the poet ultimately want to convey about books?

Answer:

Sure! Here are **model answers** to the **20 analytical two-mark questions** based on the poem "*Books*" by **Eleanor Farjeon**:

✓ **Answers:**

1. **The poet uses the metaphor "magic box"** to show that books are full of surprises, wonders, and adventures—like opening a box full of magical treasures.
2. **"The room we sit in melts away"** means that while reading, we forget our surroundings and are fully transported into the world of the book.
3. **A character becomes a "chosen friend"** because readers can connect emotionally with characters, imagining them as real companions.
4. **The phrase "our mind is over there"** shows how reading takes our imagination to distant places, even if we're physically still.
5. **The poet emphasizes imagination** to show that books are not just read with eyes but experienced through creative thinking and emotions.
6. **Books provide knowledge** by introducing new ideas and people, and **emotional connection** through characters and stories we relate to.
7. **Fantasy plays a key role** as it allows the reader to escape reality and explore magical, imaginary places created by the author.
8. **The contrast between body and mind** shows that while we sit still, mentally we travel, imagine, and feel deeply—showing the power of books.
9. **"Sail along the page"** creates the image of a journey, like sailing across water, showing that reading is an adventure into unknown lands.
10. **Books appeal to children** because they contain imagination, wonder, and magic—elements that naturally attract a child's curiosity.
11. **The relationship between reader and book** is intimate and transformative; the book becomes a companion and guide for the reader.

12. **Books “hold all things”** because they contain stories, emotions, knowledge, lessons, dreams—everything a reader could want.
13. **The poem highlights the transformative power** by showing how reading changes our mood, thoughts, and even our world temporarily.
14. **Reading resembles adventure** because it takes us to other lands, introduces new people, and surprises us with events and emotions.
15. **Reading is shown as escape** since it takes us away from daily life into exciting, peaceful, or magical places.
16. **The poet conveys emotions** like joy, wonder, friendship, and curiosity using warm, descriptive, and imaginative language.
17. **The child is symbolic** of innocence and curiosity. A child can easily believe in magic, so they are best suited to unlock the magic of books.
18. **Books are timeless** because they can take us to any place or age, from past to future, regardless of when they were written.
19. **The rhyme and rhythm** give the poem a gentle, musical flow, making the reading experience feel magical and enjoyable—like a spell.
20. **The poet’s message** is that books are magical companions. They enrich our minds, spark our imagination, and bring joy to those who love them.