



GARDEN SNAKE

by Muriel I. Sonne

SUMMARY

Through the poem 'Garden Snake', the poet by Muriel L. Sonne tries to clear the general belief that all snakes are dangerous and poisonous. However, it is not true. The poem shows a garden snake which is not dangerous to anyone. It also shows how a young child is refrained from forming his or her own opinions and rather have certain beliefs forced down on them by the society. Therefore, it is important to learn and gain knowledge about any subject and not believe in rumours.

Explanation of the Poem

I saw a snake and ran away...
Some snakes are dangerous, they say;
But mother says that kind is good,
And eats up insects for his food.
So when he wiggles in the grass
I'll stand aside and watch him pass,
And tell myself, "There's no mistake,
It's just a harmless garden snake!"

Explanation: The poem begins with the poet's (a young child) encounter with a snake one day. When the child saw the snake, he/she ran away as he/she was frightened by it. This is because the child had often heard people say that some snakes are harmful in nature. However, the child's mother corrects him/her by saying that the snake that he/she had seen was harmless. Those types of snakes eat insects. The child decides that when he/she sees a snake crawling in the grass, he/she would make way for the snake. He/she would, then, tell himself/herself that the particular snake was just a garden snake which isn't dangerous.

Word - Meaning

Word	Meaning
Wiggles	To move with, irregular motion
aside	At a side/not in the path of

