



MEADOW SURPRISES

by Lios Brandt Phillops

SUMMARY

The poem 'Meadow Surprises' by Lois Brandt Phillips talks about the various surprises that one may come across while exploring a meadow. The meadows are grasslands in which plants and flowers grow naturally. Just like we find beauty in the garden, we can find beauty hidden in the meadow if we observe it carefully.

Stanzawise Explanation

Stanza 1

Meadows have surprises,
You can find them if you look;
Walk softly through the velvet grass,
And listen by the brook.

Explanation: The poem begins with the poet talking about the various surprises that one may find in meadows. One needs to have keen eyes and know where as well as how to look for these surprises. The poet, then, suggests that by walking lightly on the soft grass and listening to the sound of the stream flowing by the meadows, one can come across those surprises.

Stanza 2

You may see a butterfly
Rest upon a buttercup
And unfold its drinking straws
To sip the nectar up.

Explanation: One of the surprises that can be found while walking through the meadows is a butterfly. While resting on a buttercup flower, the butterfly can be seen sipping the nectar with the help of its sucking tube (proboscis).

Herein, the drinking straws act as a metaphor for the sucking tube because of their use.

Stanza 3

You may scare a rabbit
Who is sitting very still;
Though at first you may not see him,
When he hops you will.

Explanation: Just as butterflies are found in the meadows, rabbits are also found in it. The poet says that if one doesn't walk softly, one can scare the rabbit that is sitting quietly in the meadows. Although it is hard to spot a rabbit, one will easily find it if the rabbit hops out of the grass.

It is mentioned in the first stanza that while walking through the meadows, one has to be quiet and careful. This stanza provides a reason for doing so.

Stanza 4

A dandelion whose fuzzy head
Was golden days ago
Has turned to airy parachutes
That flutter when you blow.

Explanation: Another surprise that can be spotted in the meadows are the dandelions. A dandelion is a flower that blooms in a golden-yellow colour and has soft petals. However, it soon loses its entire colour and starts to wither. If one blows on the dandelion, its petals spread in the air and the tiny pieces fly around like parachutes.

Stanza 5

Explore the meadow houses,
The burrows in the ground,
A nest beneath tall grasses,
The ant's amazing mound.

Explanation: The poet further lays down some other places that should be explored in the meadows. Small animals' burrows, birds' nests, and ants' mounds are some mentionable houses found in the meadows. Burrows are holes or tunnels found in the

ground and are dug by small animals. While birds build their nests on tall grasses, the ants build their mounds (anthills) on the ground.

The poet expresses that the mound made by the ants is amazing. Despite being tiny creatures, the ants put in a lot of hard work and build a well-structured and organized place for themselves.

Stanza 6

Oh! Meadows have surprises
And many things to tell;
You may discover these yourself,
If you look and listen well.

Explanation: The poem ends with the poet repeating that meadows have many surprises to explore. One can discover these surprises if one keeps one's eyes and ears open at all times.

The poet emphasizes the importance of paying close attention to the surroundings when one visits the meadows.

Word – Meaning

Word	Meaning
Buttercup	a flower
Nectar	sweet liquid secreted by flowers
Sitting still	doing nothing
Hops	move by jumping with two or all feet at once
Fuzzy	having a frizzy appearance
Flutter	to flap or wave
Burrows	a tunnel or hole
Mound	an artificial hill