

The Quarrel

Overview

This is an amusing poem about three insects who, though known by the different names in different places, are in fact the same. As the three fireflies quarrel away, an early bird hears them shouting and eats them up. Through this poem, young learners will realise that it is not good to quarrel amongst friends because nothing good comes of it.

Learning targets

At the end of this unit, the student will be able to:

- understand that it is not good to quarrel as nothing good comes of it.
- appreciate a poem and enjoy its rhythm and language.
- answer factual, inferential, referential and evaluative questions.
- identify rhyming words.
- collect information about the three insects given in the poem.
- identify and collect stories similar to the theme of the given poem.

Pre-reading

1. Let the students sit with their books shut. Do not disclose the name of the lesson they are about to read.
2. To introduce the topic, generate a discussion through the following questions. Allow the students to answer either individually or in chorus. Allot ten minutes for the discussion.
 - *Have they seen a firefly? When can fireflies be seen?*
 - *What kind of insect is a firefly?*
 - *Can they imagine insects quarrelling?*
 - *Is it good to quarrel?*
 - *What happens when they quarrel with their friends?*
3. These questions will generate a discussion, which the teacher should monitor. All responses by the students should be appreciated.
4. Now ask the students to open their books to the lesson concerned.

Reading

1. The meanings of difficult words have been given in a box on the page corresponding to the said word. Students should, however, be encouraged to discover the meaning themselves by referring to the context of the word in the poem.
2. Instruct the students to silently read the first three stanzas (till '*a glow worm happening by.*') of the given poem. Remind them not move their lips or use their fingers/pencils along the lines while reading.
3. Ask the students the following questions with reference to the portion they have just read:
 - *Why did the fly call the lightening bug a 'dunce'?*
 - *What did the two insects fight about?*
 - *Who joined their quarrel?*
4. Now ask one student to read aloud the next three stanzas, that is, from '*I'm a worm, squirmed*' till '*awakened the early bird.*' Please do correct pronunciation, intonation and stress as the poem is read by different learners. Now ask the following questions:
 - *What did the glow worm say to the two insects?*
 - *Who was standing firm and on what?*
 - *Who was awakened by their quarrel?*
 - *What do you think the early bird will do?*
5. Next ask a second student to read aloud the last 3 stanzas of the poem. Now ask the following questions:
 - *What did the bird say to the insects?*
 - *Who did she eat last?*
 - *What is the moral of the poem? Do you agree?*
6. Play the audio narration of the whole poem. The students should keep their books shut and listen to it with complete concentration, silently absorbing the rhythm and intonation of the language.

7. Now that the poem has been read and heard, divide the students into groups and discuss the following questions:

- *Did they enjoy the poem?*
- *What did they like most about the poem?*

Discuss and compare the answers with each group.

8. These discussions should be interactive, with the teacher encouraging the students to participate.

Post-reading

Learn to enjoy the poem

- Divide the class into groups of four.
- Each group will discuss the answers to the given questions and make notes in their rough notebooks.
- Each question is then discussed in class in the following manner:
 - Ask at least three groups to read out their points for each answer.
 - Ask the other groups:
 - i) if they agree to the answer that has been read out.
 - ii) if they have anything to add.
- Finally, the students will write the answers in their notebooks.
- Each student's work will have to be checked for spelling, grammar and punctuation.

The time limit for this exercise should not exceed 15 minutes.

Activity

- For Exercise 1, divide the class into groups of six.
- Each group will collect pictures and information from various sources.
- Then let each group share their findings with the class.
- Guide and correct as required.
- For Exercise 2, instruct the students to research and find stories similar to the theme of the poem.
- Let the students put all the stories together and make a book for the class library.
- Guide as required.

Additional digital resources

Pages	Audios	Animation
44	Poem audio: The Quarrel	Poem animation