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7. Answer the following questions.

(a) How does the brook 'sparkle'?

Answer:

The brook sparkles because of the sun's rays which shine on its water. The sudden emergence or rush of the brook is shown to be in a sparkling motion.

(b) 'Bicker' means 'to quarrel'. Why does the poet use this word here?

Answer:

'Bicker' means a noisy discussion or an argument. The poet uses the word 'bicker' to describe the noisy flow of the brook as it flows through the valley as it sounds like quarrel.

(c) How many hills and bridges does it pass during its journey?

Answer:

The brook passes thirty hills and fifty bridges during its journey.

(d) Where does it finally meet the river?

Answer:

The brook finally meets the river near Phillip's farm.

(e) Why has the word 'chatter' been repeated in the poem?

Answer:

The word 'chatter' has been repeated in the poem because it represents the sound frequently made by the flowing brook. It seems that the brook talks about its journey that it has travelled throughout in a lively mood.

(f) 'With many a curve my banks I fret'- What does the poet mean by this statement?

Answer:

The brook becomes tired occasionally as it has to curve and move round and round, again and again.

(g) 'I wind about, and in and out.' What kind of a picture does this line create in your mind?

Answer:

The brook does not flow in a straight line but veers and twists itself along its way. It creates a picture of flowing waters of the brook resembling a maze or whirlpool.

(h) Name the different things that can be found floating in the brook.

Answer:

The different things that can be found floating in the river are pumice, flowers, wood chips, foamy flakes, bark of trees, twigs and leaves.

(i) What does the poet want to convey by using the words 'steal' and 'slide'?

Answer:

By using the words 'steal' and 'slide', the poet refers to smooth and noiseless movement of the brook.

(j) The poem has many examples of alliteration. List five examples.

Answer:

Five examples of alliteration in the poem are:

'Sudden sally'

'Field and fallow'

'Willow-weed'

'Golden gravel'

'Slip, slide'

(k) 'I make the netted sunbeam dance.' What does 'the netted sunbeam' mean? How does it dance?

Answer:

The sunrays filtering through the leaves and bushes make a net-like pattern on shallow water-pools. They are reflected on the surface of water and appear to be dancing as the water flows.

(l) What is the 'refrain' in the poem? What effect does it create?

Answer:

In the referred poem, the refrain is:

'For men may come and men may go

But I go on for ever.'

The repetition of the refrain emphasises the transitory nature of man and the eternal nature of the brook.

8. Read the given lines and answer the questions

I chatter, chatter, as I flow

To join the brimming river,

For men may come and men may go,

But I go on for ever.

(a) Who does 'I' refer to in the given lines?

(b) How does it 'chatter'?

(c) Why has the poet used the word 'brimming'? What kind of a picture does it create?

(d) Explain the last two lines of the stanza.

Answer:

(a) 'I' refers to the brook in the given lines.

(b) The brook chatters by flowing over the pebbles making a lot of meaningless noise.

(c) 'Brimming' means full to the brim or top. It creates an impression on our mind of the picture of a big river in flood.

(d) These lines tell us that men have a short span of life; man is mortal and human life is transient. The life of the brook, however, is continuous and will never end. Nature is immortal and can outlive man. That is why the brook says it will go on forever. The immortal nature of the brook is contrasted with the fleeting nature of man's life.

9. Identify the rhyme scheme of the poem.

Answer:

The rhyme scheme is ab ab cd cd

10. The poem is full of images that come alive through skilful use of words. List out any two images that appeal to you the most, quoting the lines from the poem.

Answer:

The first vivid image created by the poet is that of the brook flowing through hills and valleys, under the bridges and by the villages.

By thirty hills I hurry down

Or slip between the ridges

By twenty thorpes, a little town,

And half a hundred bridges.

The second striking image is that of serpent. Like flow of the brook, with flowers and fish floating on it. This image is most appealing

because it is apt, colourful and poetic.

11. The brook appears to be a symbol for life. Pick out examples of parallelism between life and the brook.

Answer:

The brook appears to be a symbol for life, which becomes the central theme of the poem. Various instances that can be seen in the poem which draw parallel between brook and life.

The brook is a small stream that is born in some mountain. It grows bigger and stronger in the course of its journey. It makes so many types of sounds as it flows through the pebbles. Its movements are also varied. It slips and slides; it steals and winds its curves and flows. It chatters and babbles, it makes musical as well as harsh sounds. The brook's birth and growth, chattering and babbling are very much similar to the activities of a human being. The brook represents life in general. Both have an origin, a middle stage and an end. Both struggle against various adversities, odds and keep moving towards their goal. Above all, the brook represents life. Men may come and men may go, but life goes on forever. The same rule applies in the case of the brook. It keeps flowing eternally, like life.

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