

**1. Understanding the Poem**

**Fill in the blanks on your understanding of the poem.**

- a) The palanquin sways like a \_\_\_\_\_ in the wind. [flower](#)
- b) The \_\_\_\_\_ bear the palanquin along. [Palanquin Bearers](#)
- c) The floating of the palanquin is compared to the \_\_\_\_\_ of the lips.  
[laugh](#)
- d) The palanquin bearers sing songs of \_\_\_\_\_ while they carry the palanquin. [happiness](#)
- e) The palanquin hangs like a \_\_\_\_\_. [star](#)

**2. Answer the following questions in 30-40 words**

- a) How does the poet describe the bride? (4 lines)

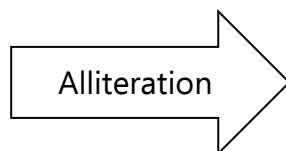
The poet draws a very vivid description of the bride. She states that the bride is 'like a flower', 'a bird', 'a laugh', 'a star', 'a beam' and 'a tear'. By using such similes, the poet's intention is to get across that the bride is very fragile but precious and needs to be handled with care.

- b) Which lines from the poem tell you that the palanquin bearers are happy, and they care about the palanquin? (4 lines)


The line, 'Gaily, O gaily we glide and we sing' tells us that the palanquin bearers are happy. The line 'we bear her along like a pearl on a string' tells us that the palanquin bearers cared.

**3. Figurative Language**

Read the poem to identify figures of speech in the poem.




- a. She sways like a flower in the wind of our song.
- b. She skims like a bird on the foam of a stream.
- c. She floats like a laugh from the lips of a dream.
- d. Gaily, O gaily we glide and we sing.




Repetition

- a. Lightly, O lightly we bear her along.
- b. Gaily, O gaily we glide and we sing.
- c. Softly, O softly we bear her along.



Similie

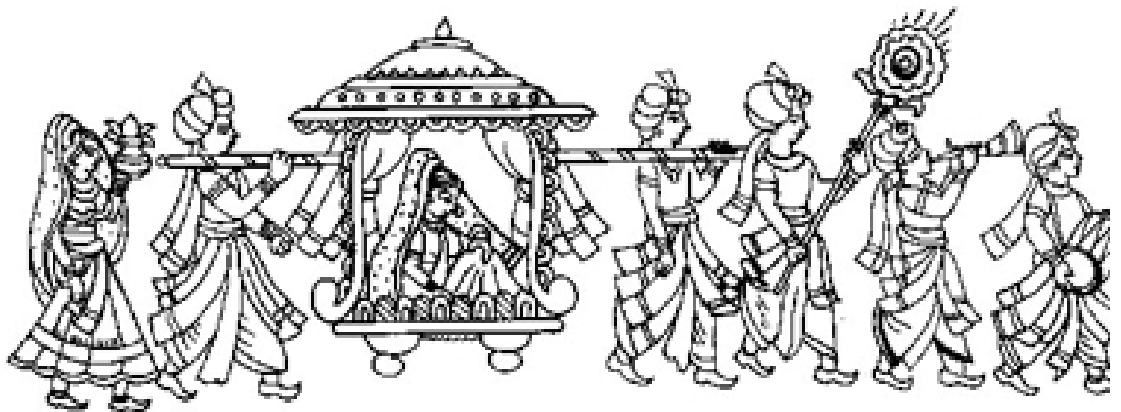
- a. She sways like a flower in the wind of our song;
- b. She skims like a bird on the foam of a stream,
- c. She floats like a laugh from the lips of a dream.
- d. She hangs like a star in the dew of our song;
- e. She springs like a beam on the brow of



Personification

- a. She floats like a laugh from the lips of a dream.

4. **Colour the picture. Think, discuss and write with your partner the similarities and differences between the present marriage system and the one described in the poem. (5 lines after the picture)**

[illegible]

This worksheet answer key has hints and suggestions for teachers' reference only. Some answers may be in points or key words; however the students are expected to write complete answers. This answer key should not be displayed in the classroom.

