

My daughter
Little dear daughter
Lights a pencil
With a sharpener.
The sky of the white paper
Begins to be filled with light.
The black bird flying away with the tree;
Glasses on the eyes of the peacock;
The fire chariot flying in the air;
The airplane walking on the road;
The lion having a conversation with the cow;
A one-eyed sun on the black tree
With a patch of cloud over it;
A blue fish flying on the forehead of the cloud;
The yellow butterfly swimming in the waterfall.

My darling daughter,
In her ecstasy
Is busy drawing
Strange pictures.
But when the schoolmaster
Gives her homework,
My darling doll
Breaks the tip of the pencil
In anger,
And the candle of the pencil
Is extinguished.
Only the smoke remains
On the sky of the white paper.

-Jayant Parmar
 Translated by Baidar Bakht

Glossary

glasses spectacles *patch* a piece of cloth used as decoration or to mend or cover a hole, *extinguished* put out, as of fires, flames, or lights

Comprehension

C.1 (a) The little girl draws nine imaginary pictures. Which one do you like most? Draw any three pictures in the space beside the printed poem.

(b) What is meant by 'only the smoke remains on the white paper.'?

C.2 Find out the antonyms of these from the poem.

Black: _____ Darkness: _____ Emptied: _____

Kindled: _____ Drowning: _____ Takes: _____

C.3 Answer these questions in brief.

1. When does the sky of the white paper begin to be filled?
2. Do you think that the peacock drawn by the girl is strange? Why?
3. Where is the fish flying?
4. Why does the little girl get angry?
5. How does the angry girl react?

C.4 Tick mark True(T) or False(F). If False, correct the false part.

1. The fish travels through the forehead of the cloud. _____

T	F
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2. The girl is busy sharpening her pencil. _____

T	F
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3. The girl hates doing the homework given by the teacher. _____

T	F
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4. The aeroplane is flying through the clouds. _____

T	F
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5. The poet loves his daughter very much. _____

T	F
---	---
6. The lion is talking to the girl. _____

T	F
---	---
7. The girl enjoys drawing the pictures. _____

T	F
---	---
8. The girl smashes the point of the pencil. _____

T	F
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9. The sun doesn't have any patch of clouds over it. _____

T	F
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10. The girl feels happy in making the picture of the animals only. _____

T	F
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C.5 Imagine that you have again become very young (5 to 8 years). What type of pictures would you draw on the 'sky of white paper'? Describe any three imaginary pictures. Then draw and colour them.

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