

SECTION TWO

2.1 Cherry Tree

ICE BREAKERS

- **Trees are revered because :**
(a) They give us joy.
(b)
(c)
(d)
(e)
- **Column A shows your involvement in growing a tree, as well as the stages in the life of a tree. Column B shows the feelings you experience at all the stages. Match them appropriately.**

A	B
1. You planted a sapling.	a. Gave you a feeling of joy to see the promising future.
2. You watered the plant.	b. The new experience brought excitement to you.
3. You saw the shoot for the first time.	c. You were happy and satisfied because you experienced what you had often heard, that small beginnings can lead to great achievements.
4. You fenced the plant.	d. The colour, symbolizing life, gave you a feeling of hope.
5. The plant gradually saw lush green leaves grow on it.	e. You wanted to make a humble beginning.
6. The tree had buds too.	f. Your motive was to protect it.
7. Birds made a nest on the tree which was fully grown and laden with flowers.	g. You cared for it.

Ruskin Bond : Born in Kasauli, Himachal Pradesh, in 1934, Ruskin Bond has written hundreds of short stories, essays, novellas and more than thirty books for children. His first novel, 'The Room on the Roof', written when he was seventeen received the John Llewellyn Rhys Memorial Prize in 1957. He has also published two volumes of autobiography, 'Scenes from a Writer's Life' and 'The Lamp is Lit', a collection of essays and episodes from his journal. In 1992 he received the Sahitya Akademi Award for English writing in India. He was awarded the Padmashri in 1999. Ruskin Bond lives with his adopted family in Mussoorie, Uttarakhand.



The poem, "Cherry Tree" is about the poet's ecstasy over a tree which he planted that took eight years to grow. He is expressing his wonder at the ways of Nature and how the cherry blossoms are fragile and quick to fall. The tree gives him immense joy as he can see the stars and the blue sky through dappled green trees.

The thought which prompted the poet to plant the cherry seed 1. 2. 3. 4. were a threat.

State whether the following statements are true or false:

1. They destroyed the Cherry tree.
2. The Cherry tree had an instinct to survive.

scythe : a tool with a long curved blade at right angle to a long handle used to cut long grass and grain

blight : causing damage

shrivelled : dried

The blossoms are fragile (True/ false)

thrust : pushed with force

fierce : aggressive (here)

Cherry Tree

Eight years have passed

Since I placed my cherry seed in the grass.

"Must have a tree of my own," I said,

And watered it once and went to bed

And forgot; but cherries have a way of growing,

Though no one's caring very much or knowing.

And suddenly that summer near the end of May,

I found a tree had come to stay.

It was very small, five months child,

Lost in the tall grass running wild.

Goats ate the leaves, the grass cutter **scythe**

Split it apart and a monsoon **blight**

Shrivelled the slender stem..... Even so,

Next spring I watched three new shoots grow,

The young tree struggle, upward **thrust**

Its arms in a fresh **fierce** lust

For light and air and sun.
I could only wait, as one
Who watched, wandering, while Time and the rain
Made a miracle from green growing pain.....
I went away next year-
Spent a season in Kashmir-
Came back thinner, rather poor,
But richer by a cherry tree at my door.
Six feet high my own dark cherry,
And I could scarcely believe it-a berry.
Ripened and jeweled in the sun,
Hung from a branch-just one!
And next year there were **blossoms** small
Pink, fragile, quick to fall
At the merest breath, the sleepest breeze.

I lay on the grass, at ease,
Looking up through leaves at the blue
Blind sky, at the finches as they flew
And flitted through the **dappled** green.
While bees in an **ecstasy** drank
Of **nectar** from each bloom and the sun sank
Swiftly, and the stars turned in the sky,
And moon-moths and singing crickets and I
Yes, I! — praised Night and Stars and tree:
That small, the cherry, grown by me.

- *Ruskin Bond*

*The poet felt richer
because*

blossoms : flowers that
bloom on trees.

dappled : having dark or
light patches

ecstasy : feeling of great
happiness

nectar : sweet liquid
produced by flowers

*The beneficiaries of
the cherry tree are
.....*

BRAINSTORMING

- (A1) (i) **Find proof from the poem for the following.**
- (a) The poet has mentioned different seasons.
 - (b) The poet's minute observations of the steady growth of the cherry tree.
 - (c) The colour imagery in the poem.
 - (d) The struggle of the cherry tree for survival.
- (ii) **State whether the following statements are True or False. Correct the false statements by finding evidence from the poem to support your remark.**
- (a) The cherry tree did not take long to grow.
 - (b) Birds and insects were benefitted from the tree.
 - (c) The poet was exalted at the sight of the cherry tree.
 - (d) The poem has an underlying message about the importance of trees.
 - (e) The poet repents planting the cherry tree.
- (A2) (i) **Discuss in groups, reasons/consequences/effects:**
- (a) The life of the cherry tree was threatened.
 - (b) The cherry blossomed.
- (ii) **A small thought, put in action, led to a great achievement. Pick out the lines from the beginning and end of the poem and explain their significance.**
- (A3) **The cherry tree has inspired the poet to compose the poem. Such poems, describing Nature or aspects of Nature are called 'Nature poems'. Find out some expressions from the poem that bring out the elements of beauty of Nature.**
- (A4) (i) **Read the line.**
- Pink, fragile, quick to fall
- Notice the arrangement of the words in the line:
- They move from healthy to delicate**
- This figure of speech is called **Climax** where successive words, phrases, sentences are arranged in ascending order of importance. Here, the cherry blossom turns pink, ripens and is ready to be picked.
- (ii) **Find out examples from the poem.**
- Alliteration :
- Antithesis :
- Personification :

(A5) (i) ‘Cherry Tree’ is a narrative poem. Features that make it a narrative poem are given below. Justify them with proper examples.

- (a) The poem has a beginning, a middle and an end.
- (b) Different places are mentioned.
- (c) Characters are referred to.
- (d) Incidents are arranged in a sequence.
- (e) There is a dialogue between the poet and the reader or the characters of the poem.
- (f) It is a time-bound poem.

(ii) Compose 8 to 10 lines. Narrate any incident in your life without using any rhyming pattern.

(iii) Write an appreciation of the poem considering the following points :

- About the poem, poet and title.

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- Theme/summary/gist of the poem.

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- Poetic style/language, poetic devices used in the poem.

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- Special features/novelties/focusing elements.

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- Message/values/morals in the poem.

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- Your opinion about the poem.

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(iv) Write a summary of the poem using the following points.

- Title

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- Introductory paragraph (about the poem, type, Nature, tone)

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- Main body (the central idea, gist of the poem)

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- Conclusion (opinion, views, appeal)

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(A6) (i) Write the poem 'Cherry Tree' in the form of a story.

(ii) Write in 100 words what the cherry tree in the poem symbolises.

(iii) You have studied the lesson 'The Call of the Soil' from prose 1.3. Compare 'Cherry Tree' with 'The Call of the Soil' and find out the element of joy of nurturing for the author and the poet.

(A7) Project

Visit the library and collect at least five poems of any Nature poet. Write the poems along with their summary.
