

## VIII ENGLISH THE ANT AND THE CRICKET (POEM-1)

### VIEW OF THE POEM

- The poem tells the story of a cricket who liked singing, dancing and enjoying his life.
- During summer and spring he enjoyed his life.
- He did not store any food and did not make any shelter to save himself from cold winter.
- When the winter came he found himself without food and without shelter.
- In winter when there was scarcity of food and he was about to die of hunger, he went to an ant to borrow some food and shelter from rain, the ant refused by saying their principle of not to borrow not to lend does not allow him to help the cricket.
- The ant commented on his habit of singing and dancing always. He told him to drive the winter away with dance.
- The poet comments on the habit of cricket of not working hard in time. He comments on this habit of human beings too.
- There are many who do not bother when they have time and money. When they are left with no time and money, they start repenting.
- The poet stresses on the importance of hard work and the need for future planning.
- We must try to safeguard our future.

### NEW WORDS

Cricket- an insect, scarcity- less, refused- said no, repent- feel sorry, shelter- home, principles- rules, stresses- insists, dance- drive, approaching- coming, appropriate-correct.

### QUESTION ANSWERS

**1. The cricket says, "Oh! What will become of me?" When does he say it and why?**

**Ans** When the winter came and cricket found himself without food and shelter, he says so. Because he had not stored any food and had not made any shelter for him..

Now he had to face cold winter and hunger.

**2. (i)** Find in the poem the lines that mean the same as “ Neither a borrower nor a lender be.”(Shakespeare).

**Ans.** “What we ants never borrow; we ants never lend.”

**(ii)** What is your opinion of the ants’ principle?

**Ans** I think we all should follow this principle. It would make us tension free and independent.

**3.** The ant tells the cricket to “dance the winter away.” Do you think the word ‘dance’ is appropriate here? If so why?

**Ans** In the sentence ‘dance the winter away’ the word ‘dance’ means drive.

The ant advises the cricket to drive the winter away with dance. The cricket had not made any arrangements for approaching winter. He had danced and sung when he should have worked hard. So the ant comments that the cricket should seek help from dance. So the word is appropriate here.

**4. (i)** Which lines in the poem express the poet’s comment? Read them aloud.

**Ans.** “Some crickets have two legs, and some have two.”

**(ii)** Write the comments in your own words.

**Ans.** The poet comments that human beings too have this tendency. There are many who do not start working hard in time. And later they have to repent for being lazy. There are many people who are like the cricket mentioned in the poem.

### **EXTRA QUESTIONS**

**1. Underline all the difficult words and find out their meanings.**

**There should**

**not be a single word or expression for which you do not know the meaning.**

**There can be a surprise dictation test any time during school hours.**

**GOOD LUCK!**