



Unit-2

Poem

My Hobby: Reading

GLOSSARY:

1. ajar – slightly open
2. breeding – procreation
3. cackle – informal laugh
4. constructing – establish / create
5. hobby – leisure time activity
6. rational – intelligence
7. read – educated
8. vigorous – powerful
9. without wings – without limits

Poem Lines:

My hobby is reading
It helps me
In thought breeding.
It takes me to places
Near and far,
It keeps my rational
Doors ajar.
It teaches me
To cackle and cry
Without wings
It lets me fly.
I wish
If all the children could read,
In constructing a vigorous society,
Then we shall succeed.

Arunachalam Chandrashekharan



Summary of the Poem:

The poem is written in 2010 by Arunachalam Chandrashekharan, a professional in library and information sciences. His long term deep association with the books in his library has made him to script this poem on reading as a great hobby.

The poet declares in the first line itself that reading is his hobby. He says his reading hobby helps him to grow and cultivate many good thoughts. Those thoughts take the poet not only to the nearby places but also to the remote and far areas.

The poet compares his mind to a room and expresses that reading habit enables him to keep the doors of his mind unlocked and half open to permit intelligent and logical reasoning. At the same time, it prevents the unwanted entry of bad and wrong things. Reading practises the poet to take in both happiness and sorrow in the same spirit. It teaches him to laugh loudly during happy times and to cry and let out sorrow during painful times.

Reading does not restrict or control the thoughts of the poet. Without wings it allows his thoughts to soar high and fly. The poet aspires that all the children should go to school and study, there should be no illiterates. He believes that if all the children are well educated, then they can build a dynamic, strong and powerful society. If such a society is created, we shall succeed and reach the pinnacle in our lives.

I.Comprehension Questions:

1. What is the hobby of the poet?

The hobby of the poet is 'Reading'.

2. What does 'ajar' mean?

Ajar means 'slightly open'. Here his thinking capacity is enlightened.

3. Can the poet fly without wings?

The poet here says he can fly without wings. It means his 'creativity' gets moving.

4. What can children do to society if they read?

If the children know to read, they can make or build a better society.

5. What is theme of the poem?

"Reading maketh a man" is the theme of the poem.



II. On the basis of your understanding of the poem, tick the most suitable option to complete the statements:

Reading	d) help me in thought breeding
My hobby	c) takes me far and near
Reading	c) lets me fly without wings
Reading	b) helps children to construct society

III. Answer the following:

1. List the rhyming words in the first three lines.

Answer:

Seed, deep, asleep

2. Which line in the poem rhymes with 'Down crept its light'?

Answer:

"Down crept its light"?

Into the seed, too bright.

IV. Answer the following:

a. Identify the rhyme scheme of the given short poem.

Answer:

My dog likes bones,- a

He eats them up,- b

He's very sweet,- a

He's just a pup.- a

The rhyme scheme is "abab"

b. Complete this rhyme on your own with a abab rhyme scheme.

Answer:

Peas porridge hot

Peas porridge cold

It is in the pot

My mother told



V. Appreciation Questions:

1. My hobby is reading

Who is referred here as "my"?

The term "my" refers to the poet.

2. It helps me

In thought breeding

What is the meant by " thought breeding"?

His thinking capacity gets increased.

3. It teaches me

To cackle and cry

What does the poet express through "cackle and cry"?

The term "cackle and cry" refers to the expression of feelings

4. If all the children could read,

In constructing a vigorous society,

Then we shall succeed.

Does the reading habit construct a better society.

VI. Answer the following paragraph:

1. What according to the poet, is the benefit or reading?

Many of the people's hobby is reading so is the poet's. First of all, he says reading generates thoughts. Reading really makes us travel towards the experience of others. This habit of reading always sharpens the mind to differentiate between good and evil. It drives us to express our feelings. It brings us a creative sense. The poet concludes saying that if the children are put into the habit of reading, it will change their mentality and the society too.