

Tender Heart High School, Sector 33 B Chandigarh

Subject: English Literature

Class: VI

Chapter: 17 “The World”

Good morning students,

Today let us read and understand Chapter -17 Poem “The World” in your English Reader.

This hymn expresses gratitude to God for his wonderful creation. It is a song of thankfulness to God for creating such a magnificent world, with its landscapes, colours, and life forms. As if the Earth was wearing a magnificent outfit.

1. **The wonder of the skies:** The sky above us, full of light, clouds, stars, and the mysteries of the universe.
2. **The world around us:** Since birth, the Earth has been a constant companion, surrounding us with its gifts.
3. **Grateful praise:** The hymn is imaginative and heartfelt appreciation of Earth.

First Stanza

*"Great, wide, beautiful, wonderful world,
With the wonderful water round you curled,
And the wonderful grass upon your breast,
World, you are beautifully drest."*

In this stanza, the poet admires the Earth's vastness and beauty. The Earth is portrayed as a magnificent entity, dressed in natural splendour. The oceans are described as "curled" around the planet, like an adornment. The grass is compared to a garment covering the Earth's surface. This gives the impression that the Earth is alive and dressed in a way that reflects its natural elegance.

Second Stanza

*"The wonderful air is over me,
And the wonderful wind is shaking the tree,
It walks on the water, and whirls the mills,
And talks to itself on the top of the hills."*

Here, the poet focuses on the air and wind, treating them as dynamic and playful forces of nature. The air is presented as a constant, invisible companion. The wind's movement is described vividly—it shakes trees, ripples water, powers

windmills, and makes sounds that resemble talking. This personification of the wind makes it seem alive, adding to the wonder of the natural world.

Third Stanza

*"You friendly Earth, how far you go,
With wheat-fields that nod, and the rivers that flow,
With cities and gardens, and cliffs and isles,
And people upon you for thousands of miles!"*

In this stanza, the poet acknowledges the Earth's vastness and diversity. The "friendly Earth" is home to various landscapes, including wheat fields, flowing rivers, cities, gardens, cliffs, and islands. The mention of people living "for thousands of miles" highlights the interconnectedness of human life with nature. The Earth is presented as a nurturing and expansive home for all life forms.

Fourth Stanza

*"Ah! You are so great, and I am so small,
I tremble to think of you, World, at all,
And yet, when I said my prayers to-day,
A whisper inside me seemed to say,"*

Here, the poet reflects on their feelings of insignificance compared to the immense size and grandeur of the Earth. The vastness of the planet makes the poet feel small and even intimidated. However, during a moment of prayer, an inner voice offers comfort, suggesting there's more to human existence than just physical size or presence.

Fifth Stanza

*"You are more than the Earth, though you are such a dot:
You can love and think, and the Earth cannot!"*

The final stanza provides a profound realization. The poet's inner voice reassures them that, despite their smallness, humans possess unique qualities that make them significant. Unlike the Earth, humans can love, think, and reflect. This distinction elevates humanity's role in creation, showing that emotional and intellectual capacities give humans a special connection to the universe.

Conclusion

Paragraph by paragraph, the poem takes us on a journey from admiration for the Earth's beauty to an appreciation of human uniqueness. It reminds us to pause, observe, and cherish the world around us while recognizing our unique role in it.