

NCERT Solutions for Class 8 English (Poorvi)

Chapter 14 : Magnifying Glass

Let us discuss

I Complete the summary of the poem given below with suitable words from the poem.

The poem describes the magic of seeing the world through a 1. _____. It reveals how tiny things like 2. _____ and 3. _____ can appear vast and complex. Even a 4. _____ of water can seem like a hive of 5. _____. The poet is impressed at how the spider spins its 6. _____ from its 7. _____. The poem ends with the idea that, through lenses, the 8. _____ could seem within reach.

Answer:

1. magnifying glass
2. moss
3. chalk
4. drop
5. bees
6. web
7. spinnerets
8. moon

II Fill in the blanks by choosing the correct answer from the brackets.

1. The main idea of the poem is the transformative power of ____ (wonders in nature/close observation) through the magnifying glass.
2. The tone of the poem is _____. (wonder and curiosity/peaceful and emotional)
3. The poem has ____ stanzas with _____ lines in each stanza. Hence, it is a quatrain. (four; six/six; four)
4. The rhyme scheme of the poem is _____. (ABCD; ABCB) Answer:
 1. close observation
 2. wonder and curiosity
 3. six /four
 4. ABCB

III Pick examples from the poem for the following poetic devices.

1. Simile
2. Alliteration
3. Metaphor Answer:

1. A drop of water/Like hive of bees Yes, and with lenses like it
2. Shells show, forest-flowers, wait and watch, woven web-silk, make more marvellous
3. "Magic talk" (the magnifying glass is not literally talking)

The whole poem is metaphorical in how it compares ordinary things to magical wonders.

IV The poem is rich in visual imagery, painting vivid pictures of small, everyday things magnified into something grand.

1. In the line, 'A myriad shells show in a scrap of chalk', the magnifying glass reveals _____.
2. In the line, 'A forest—flowers and trees' the poet uses the imagery of nature to emphasise _____. Answer:
 1. the hidden patterns or fossil-like structures in something as simple as chalk.
 2. how a tiny patch of moss can look like an entire forest under magnification.

V Complete the following sentences with a reason.

1. The poet uses exclamation marks in lines, 'The tigerish claws he has!', 'With all those eyes!' and 'In an afternoon!' because it _____.
2. In the phrase, 'Magic talk' the poet uses personification to describe the magnifying glass because it _____.
3. Each stanza follows a repetitive pattern of introducing a small or ordinary object and then describing the extraordinary details revealed through magnification.
This is because it supports the theme of _____ as the speaker reveals _____.
4. In the final stanza the poet shifts from small, everyday objects being magnified to a celestial body like moon because _____.

Answer:

1. expresses his sense of amazement and excitement at what he sees through the magnifying glass.
2. seems to reveal secrets or tell stories that are otherwise hidden from the naked eye.
3. curiosity and discovery; how much beauty and wonder exists in small things.
4. it shows how far human curiosity and observation can go, even reaching space through lenses like telescopes.

Let us think and reflect

I Read the given extracts and answer the questions that follow.

1. With this round glass I can make Magic talk— A myriad shells show
In a scrap of chalk;
Of but an inch of moss
A forest—flowers and trees;

(i) Identify whether the following statement is true or false.

The poet uses his magical powers to make the round glass powerful.

Answer: False

(ii) Select the line from the extract that expresses the presence of intricate patterns in ordinary objects.

Answer: "A myriad shells show / In a scrap of chalk"

(iii) What does the comparison of 'an inch of moss' to a 'forest' suggest about the speaker's view of the world through the magnifying glass?

Answer: It suggests that the speaker sees immense beauty and complexity in even the tiniest parts of nature. Through the magnifying glass, the ordinary becomes grand and magical.

(iv) How does the poet feel about the ability of the magnifying glass to reveal hidden wonders?

- A. Satisfied
- B. Fascinated
- C. Grateful
- D. Determined Answer: B. Fascinated

II Answer the following questions.

1. What is the significance of the spider in the poem?

Answer: The spider represents skill, precision, and natural beauty. The poet admires how the spider spins its web using its spinnerets and how even its small, tiger-like claws become visible through magnification. It reflects the hidden intricacies of life that are revealed when observed closely.

2. How might the speaker's view of the natural world change if there was no use of a magnifying glass?

Answer: Without a magnifying glass, the speaker might miss the minute details and hidden beauty of small things. The natural world would seem ordinary rather than extraordinary and magical, and the sense of curiosity and wonder would be diminished.

3. Why does the poem end with the idea of the moon being within reach?

Answer: The poem ends with the idea of the moon being within reach to show that scientific instruments like lenses and telescopes can expand our reach and imagination. It suggests that human curiosity and observation can take us beyond the Earth, even to celestial bodies like the moon.

4. What is the speaker's attitude towards nature and the act of observation?

Answer: The speaker has a deep sense of curiosity, fascination, and admiration for nature. He sees observation as a way to uncover hidden beauty and believes that even the smallest things hold wonder and mystery when seen up close.

5. Which is your favourite part of the poem? Why?

Answer: My favourite part is "A drop of water/ Like hive of bees" because it beautifully compares a simple drop of water to a busy beehive, showing how full of life and activity even the smallest things can be when seen through a magnifying glass. It reminds me to appreciate the hidden wonders all around me.