



## INDIAN SCHOOL DARSAIT DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH



Subject : English                      Topic : The Brook                      Date of Worksheet : April 2017

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I	Read the following extract and answer the questions that follow:-	Marks
1.	<p><i>'I steal by lawns and grassy plots, I slide by hazel covers I move the sweet forget-me-nots, That grows for happy lovers.'</i></p> <p>(a) What does the poet want to convey by using the words 'steal' and 'slide'?" The poet wants to convey the brook's smooth movements in the above lines. It moves silently without being seen when it passes by grass and lawns.</p> <p>(b) Identify the rhyme scheme in the above stanza. abab</p> <p>(c) What kind of terrain is the brook moving on now? It is moving through the plains now.</p> <p>(d) Which is the figure of speech used in the first line? Personification (The poem is narrated in the first person by the brook)</p>	4
2.	<p><i>'I wind about, and in and out, With here a blossom sailing, And here and there a lusty trout, And here and there a grayling.</i></p> <p>(a) What does 'I wind about' suggest? The brook moves in a zig zag manner.</p> <p>(b) What do the last two lines suggest? The brook acts like a life source for many living beings.</p> <p>(c) Explain: lusty trout and grayling lusty trout – a big fresh water fish grayling- fresh water fish</p> <p>(d) What makes the brook so colourful and lively? The blossoms and the fish (trout and grayling) makes the brook look colourful and lively.</p>	4
3.	<p><i>'Till last by Philip's farm I flow To join the brimming river</i></p>	4

	<p><i>For men may come and men may go But I go on forever'</i></p> <p>(a) <i>The 'I' in the last line refers to _____.</i> <i>The Brook</i></p> <p>(b) <i>Which is the last place to be visited by the Brook?</i> <i>The Philip's farm which is situated near the river which the brook finally joins.</i></p> <p>(c) <i>In the stanza the journey of the brook is compared to _____.</i> <i>The life of a human being or life itself</i></p> <p>(d) <i>What is the significance of the refrain in the poem?</i> <i>The refrain emphasizes the transitory nature of man and the eternal nature of the brook.</i></p>	
II.	<b>Short Answers in 30 -40 words:-</b>	<b>2</b>
1.	<p>How does the brook sparkle?</p> <p>Ans: The brook originates from the hills. When it flows down, the sunlight is trapped into the flowing water. It makes the brook sparkle among the ferns.</p>	
2.	<p>'Bicker' means 'to quarrel'. Why does the poet use this word here?</p> <p>Ans: The poet uses the word bicker to give an idea of noise born out of quarrels. The brook flows down a hilly train. When the water flows down such a terrain it makes a lot of noise. This noise is described as bicker.</p>	
3.	<p>Why has the word chatter been repeated in the poem?</p> <p>Ans: The brook produces a murmuring sound while flowing. The word chatter has been repeated in the poem to give an idea of talking. When the brook flows over the stony ways it appears as if it is talking.</p>	
4.	<p>What does the poet want to convey by using the words 'steal' and 'slide'?</p> <p>Ans: By using the words steal and slide the poet wants to convey the silent movement of the brook. It passes by something silently (noiselessly) and slips (smoothly) over the hurdles in its way.</p>	
5.	<p>The poem has many examples of alliteration. List any five examples.</p> <p>Ans: (i) t sound in twenty town (ii) s sound in sudden sally (iii) w sound in with- willow – weed (iv) f sound in Philip's farm. (v) b sound in pebble and babble</p>	
6.	<p>'I make the netted sunbeam dance'. What does the netted 'sunbeam' mean? How does it dance?</p> <p>Ans: The sunrays filtering through the leaves and bushes make a net like pattern on the shallow waters. The netted sunbeam means the sunbeams trapped into the flowing water. When the water flows the sunbeams appear as if they are dancing.</p>	
7.	<p>The brook appears to be a symbol of life. Pick out examples of parallelism between life and the brook.</p>	

	<p>Ans: The brook in the poem is a symbol of life. Just as one has to go through many ups and downs in one's life, the brook also changes its course several times passing over smooth and rough surfaces alike. The human existence finally culminates in death, the brook, however, joins the river and is ever flowing.</p>	
8.	<p>What are the different stages in the journey of the brook? How is a brook's journey similar to a human being's life?</p> <p>Ans: There are three stages in the brook's journey. These are comparable to a man's life. The initial stage when it emerges and flows forcefully in mountainous region, is like the childhood of man, young and energetic. In the middle stage the brook carries many things along with its flow. In middle years too, a man shoulders many responsibilities in life. Thirdly, it merges with the brimming river while man merges with infinite.</p>	
III.	<b>Answers to Long Answer Questions (Value Based)</b>	<b>4</b>
1.	<p>How does the poem 'The Brook' teach the value of generosity, courtesy and benevolence? Which one of these values do you think are missing and need to be imbibed in our young generation?</p> <p>Ans: 'The Brook' teaches us to be generous, courteous and benevolent to all. There are three stages in a brook's journey. These are comparable to a man's life. It is the middle stage of man's life where we need the above value. Being a social animal, we have certain responsibilities towards society. We need to be generous like a brook. We need to be helpful and benevolent to society. Our acts, like that of a brook, should benefit society. The fresh water of the brook gives life; similarly our acts should contribute to a civilized social life. Yes, we lack these values in most of the young people. The recent incidences of crime against children and women are the examples. If we know our limits like a brook and imbibe these values in our character, we will make our society a wonderful place to live in.</p>	
2.	<p>"For men may come and men may go, but I go on forever." Man is mortal. What are those values and virtues which 'The Brook' conveys to mankind? Do you think man, like a brook, can be immortal if those values are practiced by him in life?</p> <p>Ans: The brook says, 'for men may come and men may go, but I go on forever.' It shows the continuity and immortality of the brook. It is a symbol of life. Brook is a natural phenomenon and is forever. Man is mortal. But the short life of men can be immortal if the man imbibes the values of a brook. Generosity, kindness, benevolence, continuity, struggling spirit are some of the values conveyed in the poem through the brook. These values in one's character can make one an immortal person. Mother Teresa, Mahatma Gandhi and many others may have become immortal because they had these values in their character. A brook does not discriminate; it benefits all equally. If we can behave like this we can be immortal.</p>	
	<b>Practice Questions</b>	

1.	The depiction of the brook appears to be quite close to that of a young child. Do you agree? Give reasons.	2
2.	What is the message conveyed through the poem 'The Brook'?	2
3.	The journey of the Brook is narrated by the brook itself. Discuss the effectiveness of the first person narration by the poet .	
	<b>Assignment Questions</b>	
1.	<p><i>'I come from haunts of coot and hern; I make a sudden sally, And sparkle out among the fern, To bicker down a valley.'</i></p> <p>(a) Who is 'I' in the stanza? (b) According to the stanza, where does the brook originate from? (c) Which expression used in the stanza shows that the brook is noisy? (d) Name the poem and the poet.</p>	
2.	<p><i>'By thirty hills I hurry down, Or slip between the ridges, By twenty Thorpes, a little town, And half a hundred bridges.'</i></p> <p>(a) What does "by thirty hills I hurry down" suggest? (b) Where does the brook pass by? (c) What is the rhyming scheme of the poem? (d) 'Thorpes' means _____ -</p>	4
3.	<p><i>'I chatter over stony ways, In little sharps and trebles, I bubble into eddying bays, I babble on the pebbles.'</i></p> <p>(a) What does 'I chatter over stony ways' suggest? (b) How does the brook move when it joins the eddying bays? (c) Why does the brook 'babble on pebbles'? (d) Which is the figure of speech used in the last two lines.</p>	4