

Chapter - 8
Meadow Surprise - Poem

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Working with the Poem

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1. Read the lines in which the following phrases occur. Then discuss with your partner the meaning of each phrase in its context.

- (i) velvet grass**
- (ii) drinking straws**
- (iii) meadow houses**
- (iv) amazing mound**
- (v) fuzzy head**

Ans: (i) Velvet grass - The grass which feels as soft as velvet under our feet.

(ii) drinking straws - The long narrow tube that a butterfly uses to suck nectar from the flowers.

(iii) meadow houses - Home of small animals and insects that live in grasslands and open fields, like burrows and holes, nests and ants' mounds.

(iv) fuzzy head - The head of a dandelion flower, made up of many small golden yellow flowers that get dried up and blown away by air as small little parachutes.

2. Which line in the poem suggests that you need a keen eye and a sharp ear to enjoy a meadow? Read aloud the stanza that contains this line.

Ans: The line asking to be alert to enjoy being in the meadow is

"You may discover these yourself,
If you look and listen well."

The line is in the stanza below:

"Oh! Meadows have surprises

And many things to tell;
You may discover these yourself,
If you look and listen well."

3. Find pictures of the kinds of birds, insects and scenes mentioned in the poem.

Ans: Students should do this themselves. They can collect the pictures of butterflies, rabbits, ants, birds etc. and use them.

4. Watch a tree or a plant, or walk across a field or park at the same time everyday for a week. Keep a diary of what you see and hear. At the end of the week, write a short paragraph or a poem about your experiences. Put your writing up on the class bulletin board.

Ans: Students should attempt this themselves. However, if a demand for help in this context is raised by the readers of this website, our team will look into it and provide necessary help.

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1. Answer the following questions.

(i) Pick out the line that suggests that the child is afraid of snakes.

(ii) Which line shows a complete change of the child's attitude towards snakes? Read it aloud.

(iii) "But mother says that kind is good..." What is mother referring to?

Ans: (i) The line that suggests that the child is afraid of snakes is 'I saw a snake and ran away...'

(ii) The line that shows a change in the child's attitude is - 'I'll stand aside and watch him pass,

And tell myself, "There's no mistake,

It's just a harmless garden snake!"

(iii) The mother is referring to the garden snake, saying it is the harmless kind of snake.

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2. Find the word that refers to the snake's movements in the grass.

Ans: 'Wiggles' is the word that refers to the snake's movements in the grass.

3. There are four pairs of rhyming words in the poem. Say them aloud.

Ans:The four pairs are

(i) away - say

(ii) good - food

(iv) grass - pass

(iv) mistake - snake

4. A snake has no legs or feet, but it moves very fast. Can you guess how? Discuss in the group.

Ans: A snake has no legs or feet, but it moves very fast as it slithers over the grass. This is done by alternately contracting and relaxing its body's muscles.

5. Can you recall the word used for a cobra's long sharp teeth? Where did you come across this word first?

Ans: The word 'fangs' is used for cobra's sharp teeth. They contain poison. So all poisonous snakes have fangs. I first came across this word when my mother asked me to take care while playing in bushy areas, as I may get bitten by a poisonous snake.