

CLASS – 9TH

Beehive- Chapter – 2nd (Poem) Wind

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Central Idea of the Poem

The poem depicts the power of wind and how it is destructive. The wind, as described in the poem, blows violently and breaks everything around.

The poet has linked this powerful wind with the difficulties, obstacles and struggles of life. Just like the wind that destroys everything that is weak, these difficulties can also easily break down weak people. Only strong people can withstand them.

The poem then, encourages us to have courage and firm determination. It gives a message that we must have strong hearts as well as will power to face any troubles or hardships of life.

Poetic Devices Used in the Poem

Personification- A figure of speech which is used for an inanimate object or animals/birds look or feel human.

The wind is personified throughout the poem. Some instances are.

Lines 5 - 8 There, look what you did-you threw them all down/ You tore the pages of the books. /You brought rain again. /You're very clever at poking fun at weaklings. (Here the poet is talking to the wind, gently admonishing it, just like to a human being)

Lines 12 - 13 The wind God winnows (separates) and crushes them all. / He won't do what you tell him. (Here the wind is personified a God).

Line 18- Do this and the wind will be friends with us. (Here the wind is personified as a friend).

Line 21- He makes strong fires roar and flourish. (Here the wind is personified as a human).

Line 22- We praise him every day. (Here the wind is personified as a God).

Metaphor- A device which compares two things or qualities which are unlike.

Line 12- The wind God winnows... (Here winnows' is a metaphor for separating the weak from the strong).

Anaphora- This means repetition of the same word in successive lines. The instances are:

Lines 2, 3 and 4	Repetition of “ Don’t”
Lines 6, 7 and 8	Repetition of “you”
Lines 9, 10 and 11	Repetition of “crumbling”
Lines 14 and 15	Repetition of “let’s

Thinking about the Poem

Q 1. What are the things the wind does in the first stanza?

Ans. The wind blows strongly and causes a lot of destruction. He breaks the shutters of the windows, scatters the papers, and throws down the books on the shelf. He brings the rain too

Q2. Have you seen anybody winnow grain at home or in a paddy field? What is the word in your language for winnowing? What do people use for winnowing? the words in your language, if you know them.)

Ans. Yes, I have seen farmers winnow grain in the fields. In my language, the words for winnowing is 'phatakana'. Farmers first make their bullocks crush the dried up plants with their hooves. Then this mixture of husk and grain is dropped against the blowing wind. This causes the grain and the husk fall separately. The grain is then collected in jute bags.

Q3. What does the poet say the wind god winnows?

Ans. Winnowing is a common process of separating chaff from the grain. In the same way, when a strong wind blows, the weaklings are removed but the strong ones remain steadfast.

Q 4. What should we do to make friends with the wind?

Ans. We can make friends with the wind. This can be done by building strong homes, making firmly-jointed doors, strengthening our bodies and minds through exercise and inculcating healthy habits, and activities. All this will help us face the wind with equal Force. Then we will be able to face even the most fierce wind.

Q5. What do the last four lines of the poem mean to you?

Ans. The last four lines of the poem state a universal truth - the strong favour the strong, but crush the weak. The wind intensifies strong fires, but blows out the weak ones. Man, in order to survive, has to be as powerful as his environment. Otherwise, he will be washed and wiped out like chaff is separated after grain has been separated from it.

Q 6. How does the poet speak to the wind - in anger or with humour? You must also have seen or heard of the wind "crumbling lives". What is your response to this? Is it like the poets?

Ans. The poet's tone is humorous at times. He invites our attention to the destructive powers of wind in quite a light manner. What he means to say through the symbol of wind is that we must always be prepared to fight all odds of life and must not bend or break in adverse circumstances.

Well, my view too is similar to the poet's. We must never fret or fume over difficulties. Rather we should face them boldly. If we do so, we are sure to come out of the situation as winners; stronger than ever.

By- Amar singh Rajawat