Radiant Readers ch-9 Silver (Poem)

→ 'Silver' by Walter de la Mare is a fourteen line sonnet.

[NOTE: SONNET - A poem of 14 lines with a fixed rhyme scheme]

→ It describes the impact that the silver light of the moon has on everyday objects and creatures existing within the darkened night.

→ The poet describes the visible effects of moon light on country side at night.

→ Nothing escapes her beam - the fruit on the trees, the casement lights of the buildings, the dog in the kennel and the doves, the harvest mouse.

→ The dog, doves, fish are sleeping and are 'movelers'.

Meanings :-

(1) shoon - plural of shoe (not used now)
(2) peers - looks with concentration at someone or something
(3) casements - windows
(4) beams - ray of light or shaft of light
(5) thatch - roof made of grass or leaves
(6) couched - ~~boog~~ lied down for rest or sleep.
(7) cote - A shelter for birds such as pigeons, doves
(8) peep - a secret look.
(9) scampering - ~~run~~ running with quick and short steps.
(10) gleam - shine
(11) reeds - rivesive plants.
(12) log - a piece of thick branch
(13) Harvest mouse - a breed of small rats found in fields of cereal crops.

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Exercises

1. The word 'silver' is repeated several times in this poem.

It is repeated so often because the poem is about the moon. All has been transformed to silver by the moon – the fruits, the windows, the dogs paws, the doves feathers, the eyes and claws of the field mouse, the fish, the reeds and the water in the stream. Thus it shows the silver light of the moon.

2. The moon appears of move across the night sky. The poet first describes how the moon slowly and silently glides through the silver sphere. The fruit trees down the earth are carrying silvery fruits glisten with the soft glossy light of the moon.

Another picture of the moonlight scene is the depiction of the harvest mouse running to and fro is coloured silver with claws and eyes.

3. The dog is compared to a log because he sleeps peacefully like a log (a piece of thick branch) without moving much.

4. They are the movements of the slow moon, ~~who walks at night~~ who moves across the night sky and the running of the harvest mouse.

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Silver (Poem) Exercise (Book)

5. Throughout the poem, the poet repeats the word 'silver' and has included numerous 's' sounds, this allows the reader to feel the musical quality of the poem. Alliterations like- slowly/silently - silver/~~shoon~~ shoon - beams/beneath- silver/sleeps - silver/streams are used.

6. → The moon is personified and depicted as a female wearing silver shoes (shoon) to walk through the night, inspecting all in her path.

→ In a silver-feathered sleep - The doves can be seen in the silver of the moonlight. It's ~~father~~ feather appeared silver under the silvery moon beams. The sleeping doves send forth the majestic beauty of the moon's silver. silver and feather both hint a pure or simple and uninterrupted sleep.

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7. The lines those bring out the peace and quiet of the scene are

"And moveless fish in the water gleam
By silver reeds in a silver stream."

and "Slowly, silently, now the moon
Walks the night in her silver shoon."

The words like slowly, silently, sleeps, moveless, shadowy brings out the peace and quiet of the scenes most effectively.

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Silver: Walter de la Mare

Slowly, silently, now the moon
Walks the night in her silver shoon;
This way, and that, she peers, and sees
Silver fruit upon silver trees;
One by one the casements catch
Her beams beneath the silvery thatch;
Couched in his kennel, like a log,
With paws of silver sleeps the dog;
From their shadowy cote the white breasts peep
Of doves in sliver feathered sleep
A harvest mouse goes scampering by,
With silver claws, and silver eye;
And moveless fish in the water gleam,
By silver reeds in a silver stream.

Summary: In this poem, 'Silver,' the poet Walter de la Mare describes the visible effects of moon light on countryside at night. As the moon walks silently over the human settlements below everything turns silver. It moves over the trees, making them appear silver. The silver beams of moon is reflecting on the window. It is also reflecting off the sleeping dog's paws in the dog house. The moon is reflecting off the sleeping doves' chest. It is also reflecting on harvest mouse's claws and eyes which is running. The motionless fish and water of a stream turn silver by the moon light.

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English Literature Worksheet

Class - 7 -- Poem - Silver

A. Answer the following questions :-

1. How does the moon move?
2. What does the moon see on the silver trees?
3. The poem 'silver' contains many words describing different actions. Write them.
4. What has the dog been compared to? Which figure of speech has been used to show the similarity?
5. Where are the doves? How do they look? What are they doing?

B. Reference to the Context :-

1. "A harvest mouse goes ....
   .... in a silver stream."
   a. Why does the mouse appear to have silver claws and silver eye?
   b. Which word in the above lines means 'shine'?
   c. Where is the fish?
2. "One by one the casements catch ...
   ... sleeps the dog ..."
   a. Which figure of speech is used in the above lines?
   b. Why does the poet refer to the thatch as 'silvery'?
   c. Why the dog's paws are silver?

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English Literature Worksheet (Answers)

Class - 7 - Poem - Silver

A Answers

1. The moon moves slowly and silently.
2. The moon sees silver fruits on the silver trees.
3. The words which define different actions are ~~stopping~~, walks, peers, couched, scampering.
4. The dog has been compared to the 'log'. A simile is used to show the similarity.
5. The doves are silver-feathered and they peep from the shadowy cote. The doves are sleeping.

B

1. a. The moore appears to have silver claws and silver eyes because the moonlight is shining on him.

   b. The word 'gleam' means shine.

   c. The fish is in a stream.

2. a. The figure of speech, simile is used in the above lines.

   b. The poet refers to the thatch as 'silvery' because the moonlight is shining upon it.

   c. The dog's paws are not silver but due to the silvery moonlight that falls on the paws, it is appearing to be silver.

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