



Lecture Sheet, 2nd Term, 2020

Class: 4, Subject: English Literature

Book: Cosmo English Literature Book

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4. Topic: Swift Things are Beautiful

Lecture-1

Date: 20.06.2020

Theme of the poem:

The poem *Swift Things are Beautiful* is a famous poem written by Elizabeth Coatsworth. She is a popular American poetess who wrote poetry for children and adults.

In the poem, the poet says that everything is beautiful in its own way. So, we should look around us and admire the beauty. We should also be happy the way we are. We should enjoy the beauty of everything. Although the title of the poem *Swift Things are Beautiful* says only swift things are beautiful, the poet also added slow things that are beautiful too. The first 8 lines of the poem are written about swift things and the last 8 lines are about slow things. Every two lines are a pair or match (coloured below).

Swift Things are Beautiful

–Elizabeth Coatsworth

Swift Things are Beautiful:

Swallows and deer,

and lightning that falls,

Bright-veined and clear,

Rivers and meteors,

Wind in the wheat,

*The strong-footed horse,
The runner's sure feet.*

Summary:

Let's talk about the first 8 lines of the poem. We may know that swift means quickly.

Line 1: **Swift Things are Beautiful** means things that go quickly (like deer, cheetah, eagle or thunder bolt) are beautiful.

Line 2: **Swallows and deer** means swallow is a quick flying bird and deer is a quick running animal. They both are beautiful because of their speed.

Line 3: **and lightning that falls** stands for the quick fall of the thunder bolt (through light). When a bolt falls from the sky on the earth it, that bolt is also beautiful. But people are afraid of lightning and fail to see the beauty of lightning.

Line 4: In the fourth **Bright-veined and clear** the poet talks about the lightening power of bolt is very bright. When the light of the bolt falls on something, everything seems so clear.

Line 5: **Rivers and meteors** here the poet says the quickly flowing river and the bright fallen rocks (meteors) from the sky are also beautiful. But people don't see this beauty and get scared of it.

Line 6: **Wind in the wheat** means when wind (quick passing air is wind) blows the wheat field, it also offers a beautiful view.

Lines 7 and 8: **The strong-footed horse** and **The runner's sure feet** talk about horse. Its legs are strong because it runs quickly. It is beautiful to see a horse running quickly.

Exercises:

Poem Writing: Learn, memorize and write the first 10 lines of the poem with the title of the poem and the name of the poet.

Lecture-2

Date: 23.06.2020

Swift Things are Beautiful –Elizabeth Coatsworth

And slow things are beautiful:

The closing of the day,

The pause of the wave,

That curves downward to spray,

The ember that crumbles,

The opening of a flower,

And the ox that moves on,

In the quiet of power.

(Last 8 lines)

Summary:

Line 9: **And slow things are beautiful** means things what go slowly (like air, wave of sea, cow/ox) are also beautiful.

Line 10: **The closing of the day** means when the sun sets slowly before evening, it is a beautiful view to enjoy. We know daytime begins with the sun rises and daytime ends/closes when the sun sets.

Line 11: **The pause of the wave** stands for the slow stopping of the choppy wave of a sea. That means slow wave is also something beautiful to see.

Line 12: **That curves downward to spray** means when air passes over a desert slowly; it makes curved marks on the sandy desert. It looks beautiful too.

Line 13: **The ember that crumbles**, here **ember** means burnt firewood and **crumble** means fall to pieces. The poet says that when a firewood burns and its burnt and broken parts fall down slowly, that is also very beautiful to see.

Line 14: **The opening of a flower** means, when a flower blooms (open) slowly in spring, it also offers a beautiful view.

Lines 15 and 16: **And the ox that moves on**, and **In the quiet of power** means, most of the people think ox is not beautiful. But it is not true. Ox has power in it. When an ox walks slowly and carries things on its cart to help people, it looks so beautiful.

But we do not care of these beautiful swift and slow things. There is more time to see and enjoy the beauty of everything and admire them.

Exercises:

A. Answer the following questions:

1. How does the poet describe lightning falls?
2. What does the wind blow?
3. Who is strong footed?
4. What seems beautiful of the day?
5. What does "The quite of power" mean?

Answer:
Lecture-1

Swift Things are Beautiful

–Elizabeth Coatsworth

Swift Things are Beautiful:

*Swallows and deer,
and lightning that falls,
Bright-veined and clear,
Rivers and meteors,
Wind in the wheat,
The strong-footed horse,
The runner's sure feet.
And slow things are beautiful:
The closing of the day,*

Lecture-2

Answer each question in one sentence:

1. Ans. The poet describes the bolt as 'lightening falls' and says that when a bolt falls from the sky on the earth it, that is also beautiful.
2. Ans. The wind blows the wheat field.
3. Ans. Horse is strong footed because its legs are strong as it runs quickly.
4. Ans. When the sun sets slowly before evening, it is a beautiful view of the day.
5. Ans. "The quite of power" means the slow grace with which the quiet but powerful ox moves.

✚ **Next class (solving exercise) on 27.06.2020**

✚ **Revision on 30.06.2020**

(Revision: Review the poem with lecture sheet and solve the whole exercise sheet again.)

✚ **CHT on 04.07.2020**

✚ Every line of the poem is marked in paste colour.

✚ Dear students, please learn the word meaning above and recite the poem again and again for a better understand.

✚ Good luck and thank you. 😊