

2.3 The Little River

WARMING UP !

CHIT - CHAT

You must have been for a family / class picnic to a riverside picnic spot.

- (1) What did you notice on the banks of the river?
- (2) In which season did you go? Was the river flow gushing or gentle?
- (3) Did you notice other people by the river? What were they doing?
- (4) What should we do to make sure that rivers do not get polluted?

(1) (A) Fill up the table of seasons in India.

Time of the year	Season	English Name
1. Mid February to Mid April	Vasant	
2. Mid April to Mid June		Summer
3. Mid June to Mid August	Varsha	
4. Mid August to Mid October		Autumn
5. Mid October to Mid December	Hemant	Pre-winter
6. Mid December to Mid February		Winter

(B) Match the weather with the seasons.

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|----------------|--------------|
| (1) Winter | (a) hot |
| (2) Monsoon | (b) cool |
| (3) Spring | (c) pleasant |
| (4) Pre-Winter | (d) cold |
| (5) Summer | (e) windy |
| (6) Autumn | (f) rainy |

Use calendar for better understanding of seasons, months and other details.

2. (A) Poets make the poems musical and different from prose by using many poetic devices.

One of them is using words that begin with the same sound in the same time.

For example : • beautiful birds

- sad song
- stepping stone
- city site
- No one knows

This device is called **Alliteration** and belongs to set of similar devices, named Figures of Speech. Figures of Speech add to the beauty of a poem.

Now write five pairs of words that begin with the same sound.

- (1)
- (2)
- (3)
- (4)
- (5)

(Please note : Here, the first sound is important, not the first letter in the spelling.)

(B) Poets also make use of words that resemble a sound. (The words are for example : bang, swish, beep, roar, tweet etc.)

Such words are called Onomatopoeic words. If they occur in some line of a poem, the Figure of Speech in that line is called Onomatopoeia.

3. Play a game.

Set a time limit of 5 minutes. Using letters from the word ONOMATOPOEIA make as many four/five/six letter words and write them down. The one who makes maximum number of words, within the time limit is the winner.

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The Little River

Our little river, it **meanders** along;
In summer, the water is only knee-deep,
And cows and carts can cross it with ease,
For the banks, though high, are not too steep.

No sign of **slime**, the sands shine bright,
On one shore, **kash** fields blossom white.
Chirping mynahs through that site,
The jackal's howl is heard there at night.
Across lie groves of mango and palm;
The village priests dwell in their cool shade,
Girls and boys bathe close to the bank,
Splashing with their **gamchhas** as they **wade**.

At dusk and dawn, once their bath is done,
They dip **washcloths** to trap small fish.
To their household tasks the wives return,
Having used river-sand to **scour** each dish.
In Ashadh, clouds gather, the waters rise;
The river's **in spate**, the current grows strong.
The air is **rife** with **babbling** sounds,
As the muddy **torrent** swirls along.
The woods onshore **stir to life** again,
And our village wakens to celebrate the rain.



— Rabindranath Tagore

- **meanders** : flow with twists and turns
- ◆ *How do we know that the river is just knee deep?*
- **slime** : thick slippery substance
- **kash** : tall grass with white feathery flowers
- ◆ *What does one see along the banks of the river?*
- ◆ *How do the young children enjoy in the river?*
- **gamchhas** : thin cotton towels
- **wade** : walk in a source of water where it is not deep
- **washcloths** : small cloth for washing face
- **scour** : scrub
- ◆ *How does the river change in 'Ashadh'?*
- **in spate** : a sudden flood in a river
- **rife** : full of
- **babbling** : talking rapidly
- **torrent** : rapid flow of water
- **stir to life** : become alive with sound and movement

1. (A) Name the following from the poem.

- (1) Two trees :
- (2) Two animals :
- (3) Two seasons :
- (4) Two non-English words :
- (5) Two different timings of the day :

(B) Pick from the poem words that describe sounds.

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|-----------|-----------|
| (1) | (3) |
| (2) | (4) |

(C) Pick out words that describe the flow of the river-water.

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|-----------|-----------|
| (1) | (3) |
| (2) | (4) |

2. (A) Find out five lines from the poem that contain the Figure of Speech – Alliteration. Underline the initial sound of words, repeated in each of the lines.

- (1)
- (2)
- (3)
- (4)
- (5)

(B) Pick out 4 lines that contain the Figure of Speech ‘Onomatopoeia’.

- (1)
- (2)
- (3)
- (4)

3. Rearrange the words in Alphabetical order.

- (1) summer, sign, slime, sand, shade, stir, scour, sound, swirl, strong

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- (2) banks, blossom, boys, bathe, babbling

.....

- (3) these, though, too, throng, there, their, they, trap, torrent

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4. What aspects from the poem do the following phrases describe?

- (a) their cool shade
- (b) only knee deep
- (c) not too steep
- (d) housework on the river bank
- (e) in spate
- (f) rife with sounds

5. The poem describes two different pictures of the river in summer and in rainy season.

Write down four points of contrast in the changing scene of the river.

	In Summer	In Monsoon
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		

6. Guess who I am.

I always run, I never walk.
 I often murmur, but never talk.
 I have a bed, but never sleep.
 I have a mouth, but hardly eat.
 I love to fall, but can't climb up.
 Guess who I am. Please don't give up.

Encourage students to find different riddles in English. They can use them as a language games.

Try to translate the above riddle in your medium of instruction, in a poetic form.

7. Imagine you were at a river-side class picnic and slipped and fell into the river, while playing games. Write in about 12 - 15 lines how your classmates saved you.

