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CLASS – 9

ENGLISH

Beehive

Poem : Rain on the Roof

Part – 2

Comprehension

ARPITA SHARMA

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When the humid shadows hover, A
Over all the starry spheres, B
And the melancholy darkness C
Gently weeps in rainy tears, B
A B C B

What a bliss to press the pillow A
Of a cottage-chamber bed B
And lie listening to the patter C
Of the soft rain overhead! B
A B C B

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Every tinkle on the shingles
Has an echo in the heart;
And a thousand dreamy fancies
Into busy being start,

And a thousand recollections
Weave their air-threads into woof,
As I listen to the patter
Of the rain upon the roof.

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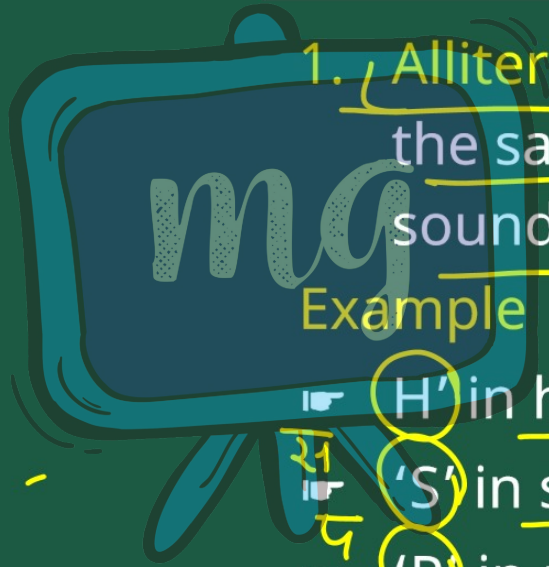
Now in memory comes my mother,
As she used in years agone,
To regard the darling dreamers
Ere she left them till the dawn:

O! I feel her fond look on me
As I list to this refrain
Which is played upon the shingles
By the patter of the rain.

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LITERARY DEVICES



1. Alliteration: The repetition of the same letter or consonant sounds between nearby words.

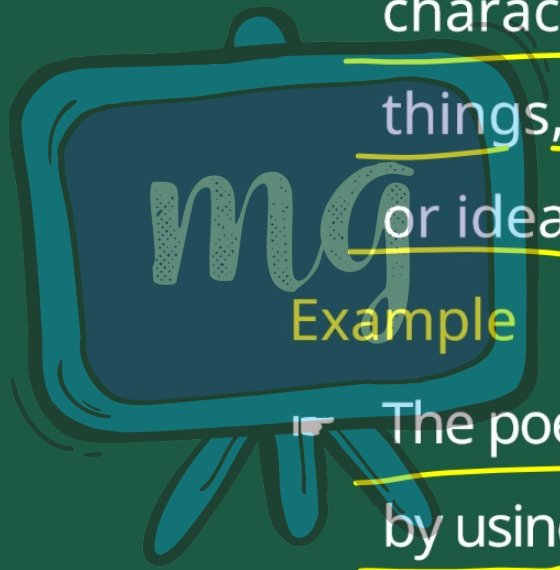
Example

- 'H' in humid shadows hover.
- 'S' in starry spheres.
- 'P' in press the pillow.
- 'L' in lie listening.
- 'B' in busy being.

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2. Personification: Gives human characteristics to non-human things, such as animals, objects, or ideas.



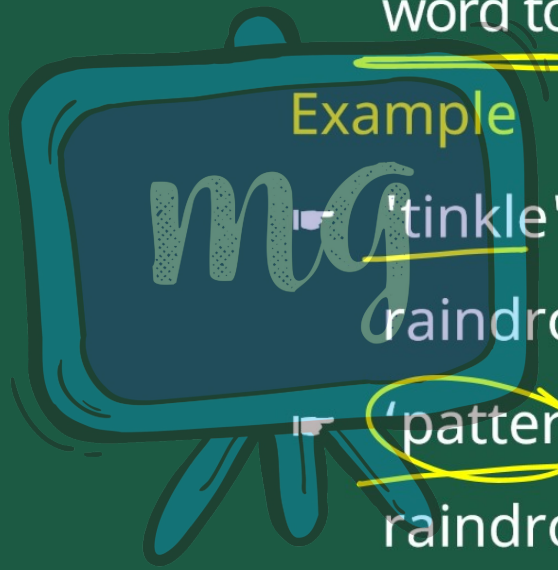
Example

☞ The poet has personified darkness by using the words like 'melancholy' and 'weeping' for her.

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3. Onomatopoeia: The use of sound word to create dramatic effect.



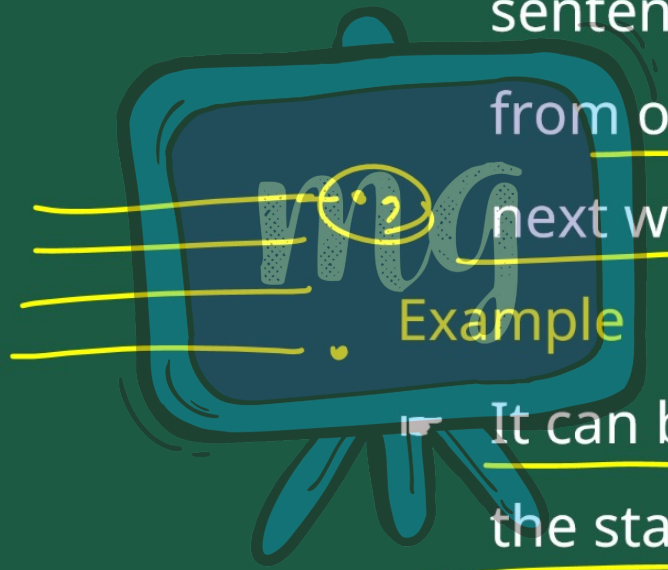
Example

- 'tinkle' is the sound made by raindrops.
- 'patter' is the sound of the raindrops falling on roof.

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4. Enjambment: It occurs when a sentence or phrase continues from one line of poetry to the next without punctuation.



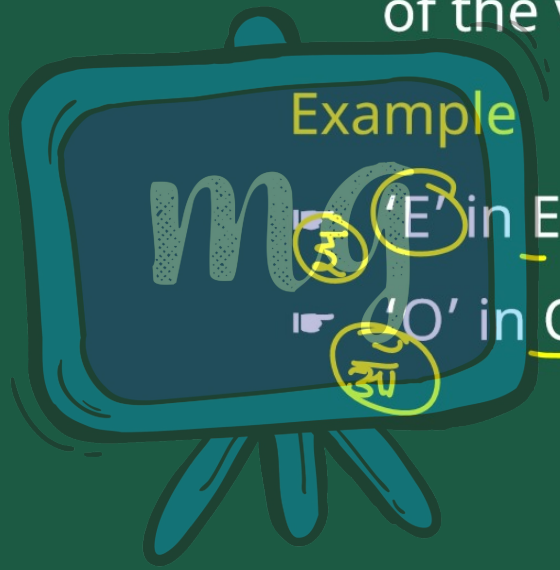
Example

☞ It can be observed throughout the stanza.

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5. Assonance: The prominent use of the vowel: (Stanza 3)



Example

- 'E' in Ere she left them.
- 'O' in O! I feel her fond look on.

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COMPREHENSION CHECK

I

Q.1 What do the following phrases mean to you? Discuss in class.

i. humid shadows dark clouds

ii. starry spheres

iii. what a bliss happiness

iv. a thousand dreamy fancies into busy being start thoughts

v. a thousand recollections weave their air-threads into woof

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Answer:

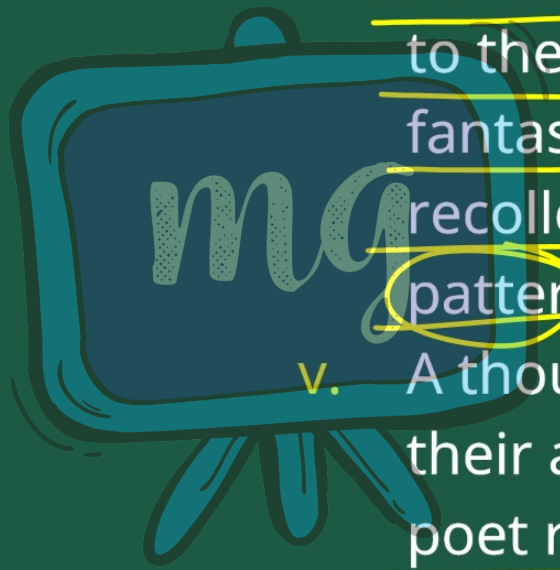
i. Humid shadows: It refers to the dark clouds that cover the sky.

ii. Starry spheres: The area where stars appear in a group in the sky.

iii. What a bliss: Bliss means happiness. The poet feels happy when he listens to the raindrops.

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iv. A thousand dreamy fancies into busy being start: It refers to the several thoughts and fantasies that the poet starts recollecting, listening to the patter of the rain.

v. A thousand recollections weave their air-threads into woof: The poet recollects hundreds of memories in the rainy season. They weave a weft with the help of air-threads.

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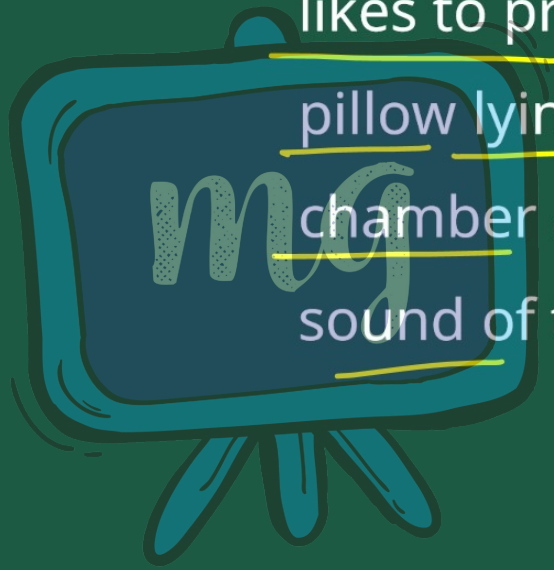
Q.2 What does the poet like to do when it rains?



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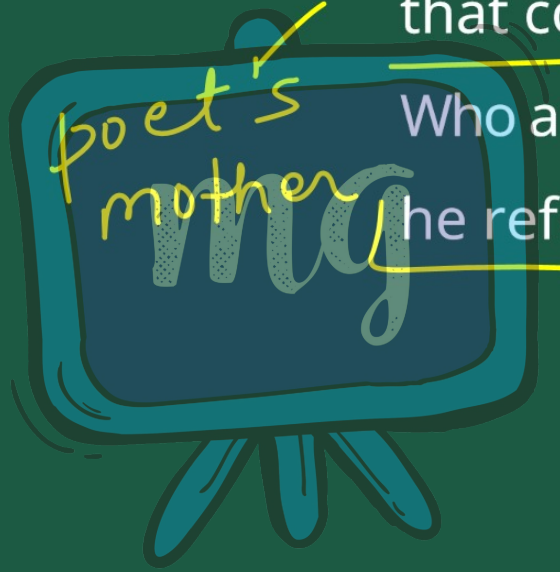
Answer: When it rains the poet likes to press his head into the pillow lying on bed in a cottage chamber and listen to pitter-patter sound of the rain overhead.



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Q.3 What is the single major memory that comes to the poet's mind? Who are the "darling dreamers" he refers to?



Siblings

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Answer: The poet's mother is the single major memory that comes to his mind.

'Darling dreamers' are the poet and his siblings as children that were sent to sleep by the poet's mother .

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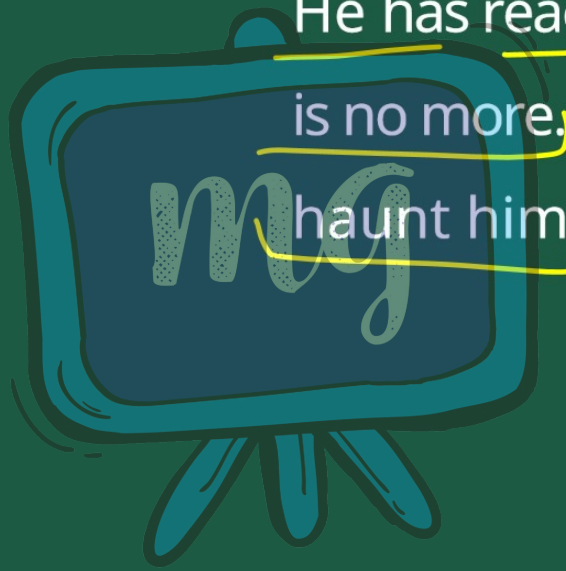
Q.4 Is the poet now a child? Is his mother still alive?



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Answer: No, the poet is not a child. He has reached adulthood. His mother is no more. But her memories still haunt him.

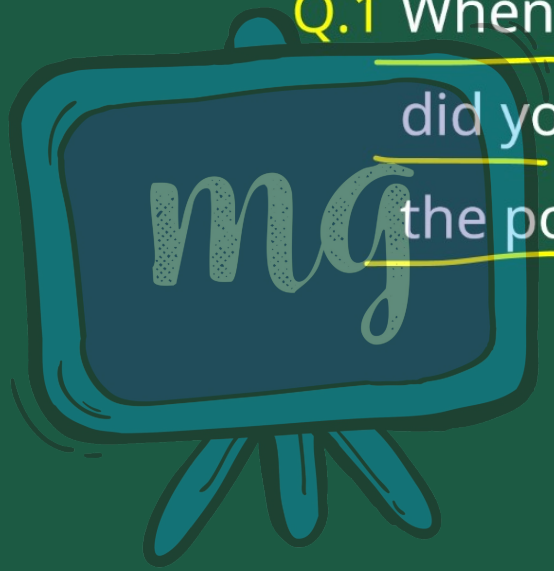


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II

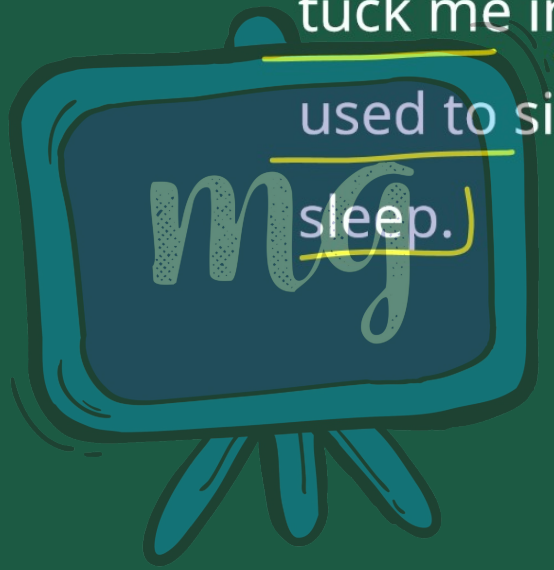
Q.1 When you were a young child, did your mother tuck you in, as the poet's mother did?



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Answer: Yes, my mother used to tuck me in when I was a child. She used to sing lullabies to make me sleep.



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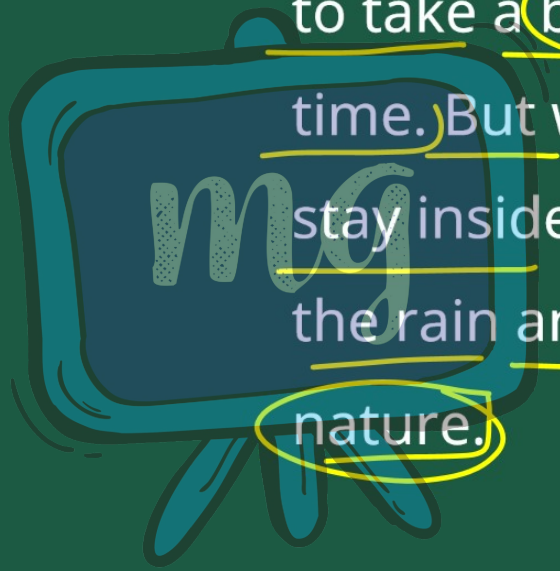
Q.2 Do you like rain? What do you do when it rains steadily or heavily as described in the poem?



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Answer: Yes, I like rain and prefer to take a bath in the rain for some time. But when it rains heavily, I stay inside listen to the patter of the rain and enjoy the beauty of nature.



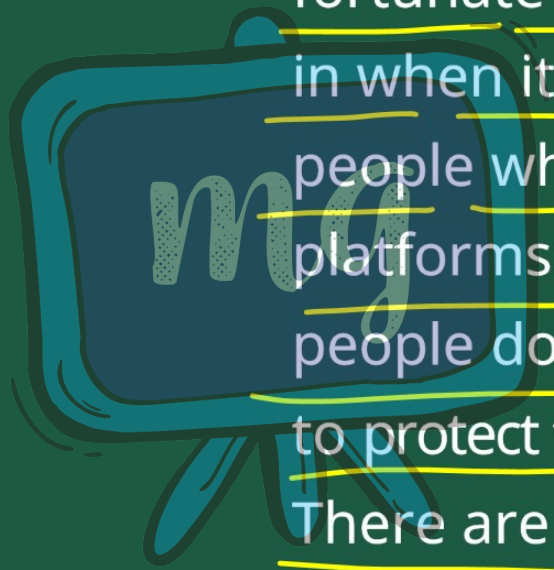
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Q.3 Does everybody have a cosy bed to lie in when it rains? Look around you and describe how different kinds of people or animals spend time, seek shelter, etc. during rain

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Answer: No, everybody is not so fortunate to have a cozy bed to lie in when it rains. There are some people who live at the railway platforms and bus terminal. Some people don't even have any shelter to protect themselves from the rain. There are so many animals which don't have any shelter and tremble under the dark sky in the rainy season.