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CLASS – 9

ENGLISH

Beehive

Poem : A Legend of the Northland

Part – 1

Explanation

ARPITA SHARMA

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OVERVIEW

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Saint Peter and Greedy Woman

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Phoebe Cary (September 4, 1824 – July 31, 1871) was an American poet, and the younger sister of poet Alice Cary. One of her most famous poems, "Nearer Home", was set to music in 1876 and became one of the most widely-sold pieces of sheet music during that time.

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BEFORE YOU READ

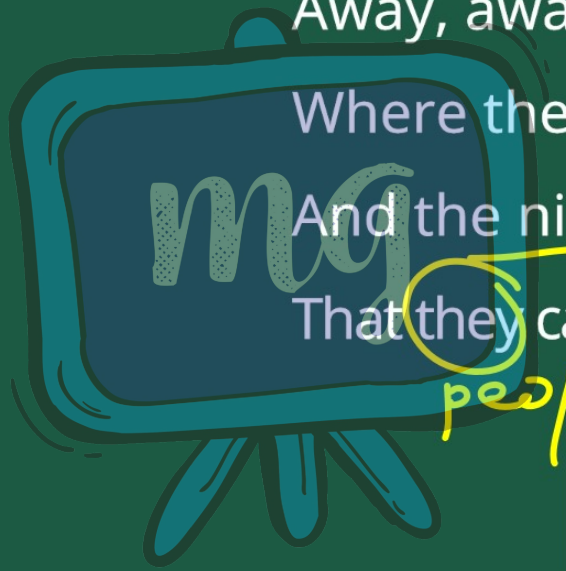
This poem narrates the legend of an old lady who angered Saint Peter because of her greed.

A ballad is a song narrating a story in short stanzas. Ballads are a part of folk culture or popular culture and are passed on orally from one generation to the next. 'A Legend of the Northland' is a ballad.

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STANZA I



Away, away in the Northland,
Where the hours of the day are few,
And the nights are so long in winter
That they cannot sleep them through;

people

Winter : सर्दी

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STANZA II



Where they harness the swift reindeer
To the sledges, when it snows;
And the children look like bear's cubs
In their funny, furry clothes:





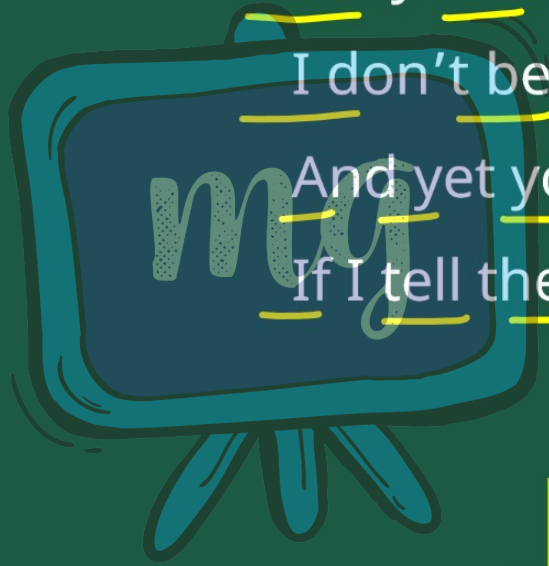
Harness	:	बांधना
Swift	:	तीव्र
Reindeer	:	बारहसिंगा
Sledges	:	बर्फ गाड़ी
Bear's cubs	:	भालू के बच्चे
Furry	:	पोस्तीन का

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STANZA III

They tell them a curious story —
I don't believe 'tis true;
And yet you may learn a lesson
If I tell the tale to you.



Curious	:	जिज्ञासु
Tale	:	कहानी

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STANZA IV

Once, when the good Saint Peter
Lived in the world below,
And walked about it, preaching,
Just as he did, you know,



Preaching : उपदेश

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STANZA V

He came to the door of a cottage,
In travelling round the earth,
Where a little woman was making cakes,
And baking them on the hearth;







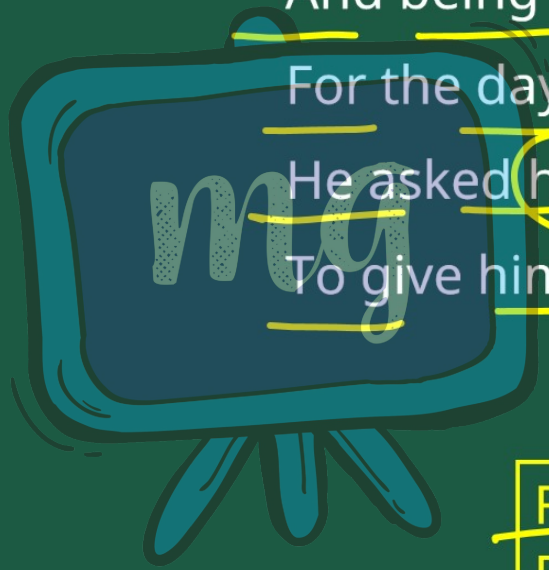
Cottage	:	झोपड़ी
Baking	:	पकाना
Hearth	:	चूल्हा/भट्टी

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STANZA VI

And being faint with fasting,
For the day was almost done,
He asked her, from her store of cakes,
To give him a single one.



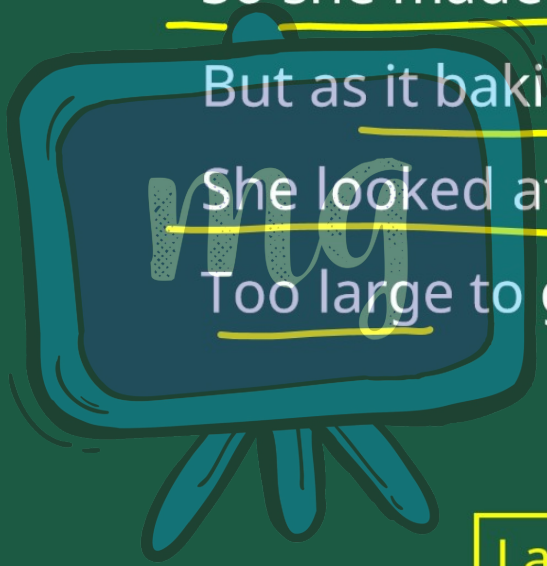
Faint	:	बेहोश होना
Fasting	:	उपवास

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STANZA VII

So she made a very little cake,
But as it baking lay,
She looked at it, and thought it seemed
Too large to give away.



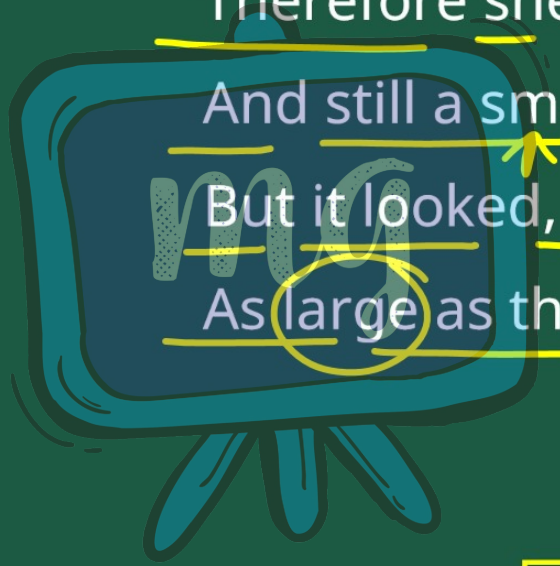
Lay	:	लिटाना
Seemed	:	प्रतीत हुआ

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STANZA VIII

Therefore she kneaded another,
And still a smaller one;
But it looked, when she turned it over,
As large as the first had done.



Kneaded : गूंथी

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STANZA IX

Then she took a tiny scrap of dough,
And rolled and rolled it flat;
And baked it thin as a wafer —
But she couldn't part with that.

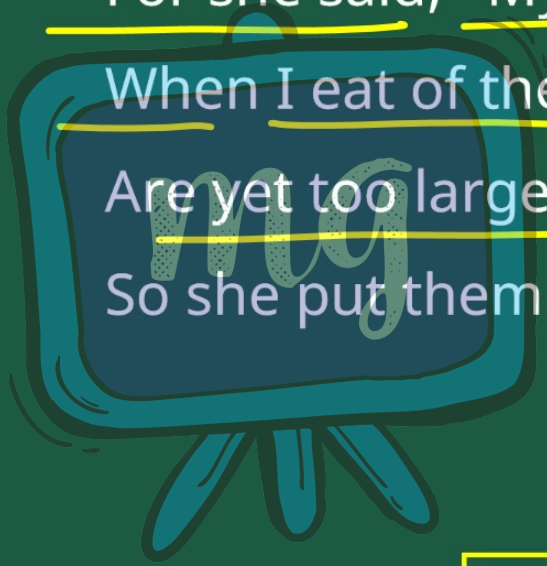
Tiny	:	छोटा
Scrap	:	कतरन
Dough	:	गुँथा हुआ आटा
Wafer	:	पतली रोटी

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STANZA X

For she said, "My cakes that seem too small
When I eat of them myself
Are yet too large to give away."
So she put them on the shelf.



Shelf : दराज

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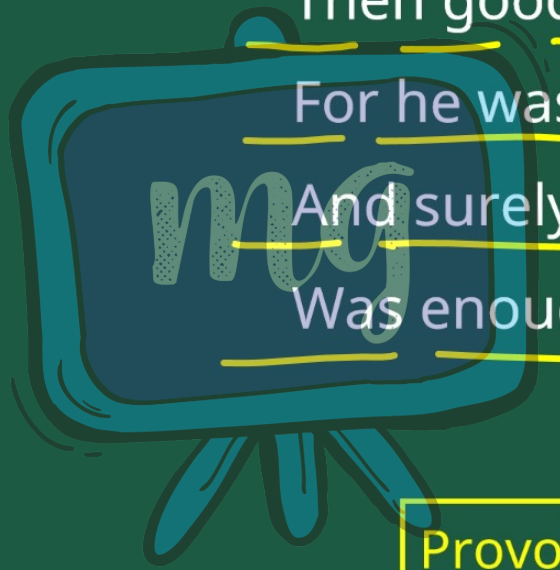
STANZA XI

Then good Saint Peter grew angry,

For he was hungry and faint;

And surely such a woman

Was enough to provoke a saint.



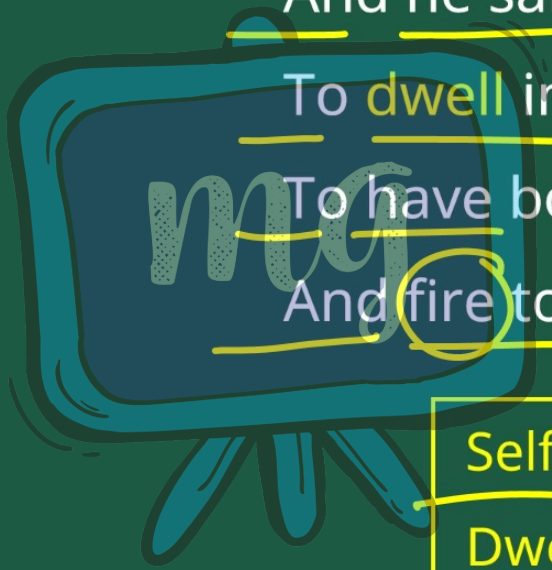
Provoke : उकसाना/गुस्सा दिलाना

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STANZA XII

And he said, "You are far too selfish
To dwell in a human form,
To have both food and shelter,
And fire to keep you warm."



Selfish	:	स्वार्थी
Dwell	:	बसना
Human form	:	मानव रूप
Shelter	:	आश्रय

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STANZA XIII

Now, you shall build as the birds do,
And shall get your scanty food
By boring, and boring, and boring,
All day in the hard, dry wood."

Build	:	बनाना
Scanty	:	अल्प
Boring	:	छेद करना/भेदना

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STANZA XIV

Then up she went through the chimney,

Never speaking a word,

And out of the top flew a woodpecker,

For she was changed to a bird.

Woodpecker : कठफोड़वा

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STANZA XV

She had a scarlet cap on her head,
And that was left the same;
But all the rest of her clothes were burned
Black as a coal in the flame.



Scarlet	:	काकरेज़ी
Flame	:	ज्योति

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STANZA XVI

And every country schoolboy
Has seen her in the wood,
Where she lives in the trees till this very day,
Boring and boring for food.

Schoolboy : स्कूली बच्चा



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LEARNING OUTCOMES

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1. The Consequences of Selfishness
2. Value of Kindness and Empathy

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ASSESSMENT

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1 What is the theme of this poem?

A Life choices and their impact.

B Consequences of greed.

C Desire and hate.

D None

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ASSESSMENT

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2 What made St. Peter angry?

A The woman's greed.

B The woman's pride.

C The woman's kindness.

D The woman's love.

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3 What message does this poem convey?

A Don't be greedy and help poor.

B Be greedy.

C Both A and B.

D None