Under CSR Support by
ipca | Foundation

missiongyan
LET'S LEARN TOGETHER



CLASS – 9

ENGLISH

Beehive

Poem : A Legend of the Northland

Part – 2

Comprehension

ARPITA SHARMA

Under CSR Support by ipca | Foundation

missiongyan LET'S LEARN TOGETHER





STANZA I

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

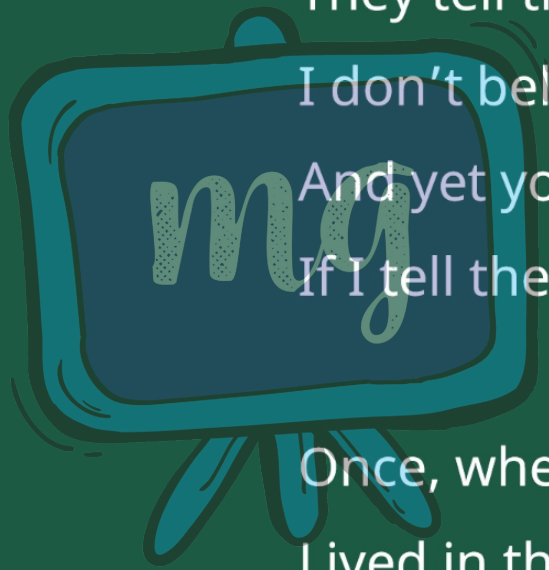
A B C B

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:

Under CSR Support by ipca | Foundation

missiongyan LET'S LEARN TOGETHER



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.

STANZA IV

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

Under CSR Support by ipca | Foundation

missiongyan LET'S LEARN TOGETHER



STANZA V

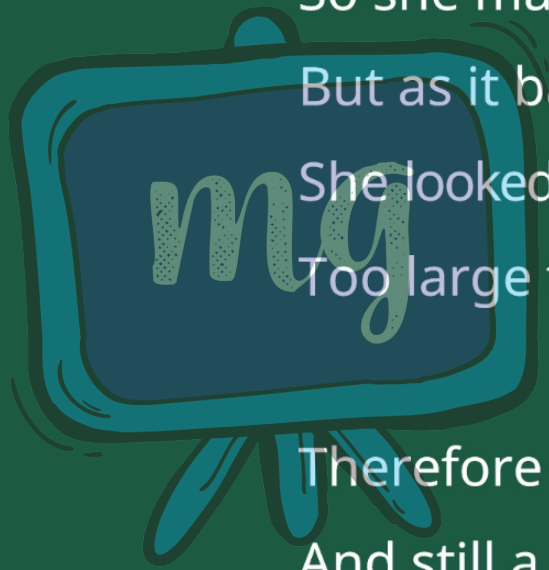
He came to the door of a cottage,
In travelling round the earth,
Where a little woman was making cakes,
And baking them on the hearth;

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.

Under CSR Support by ipca | Foundation

missiongyan LET'S LEARN TOGETHER



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.

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.

Under CSR Support by ipca | Foundation

missiongyan LET'S LEARN TOGETHER



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.

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.

Under CSR Support by ipca | Foundation

missiongyan LET'S LEARN TOGETHER

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.

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.

Under CSR Support by ipca | Foundation

missiongyan LET'S LEARN TOGETHER



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."

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.

Under CSR Support by ipca | Foundation

missiongyan LET'S LEARN TOGETHER



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.

ABCB

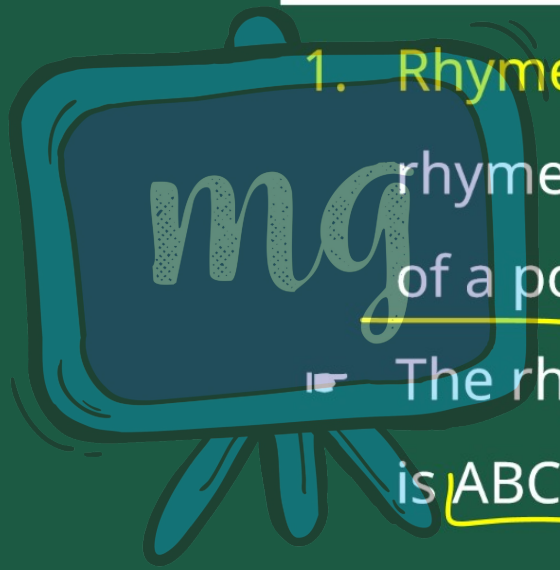
STANZA XVI

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

Under CSR Support by ipca | Foundation

missiongyan LET'S LEARN TOGETHER

LITERARY DEVICES



1. Rhyme scheme: The pattern of rhymes at the end of each line of a poem or song.

☞ The rhyme scheme of this poem is ABCB.

Under CSR Support by ipca | Foundation

missiongyan LET'S LEARN TOGETHER

2. Repetition: Repeating words, phrases, lines, or stanzas.

Example

- Away, away in the Northland, - stanza 1
- And rolled and rolled it flat, - stanza 9
- By boring, and boring, and boring, - stanza 13
- Boring and boring for food, - stanza 16

Under CSR Support by ipca | Foundation

missiongyan LET'S LEARN TOGETHER

3. Alliteration: The repetition of a consonant sound in two or more closely placed words.

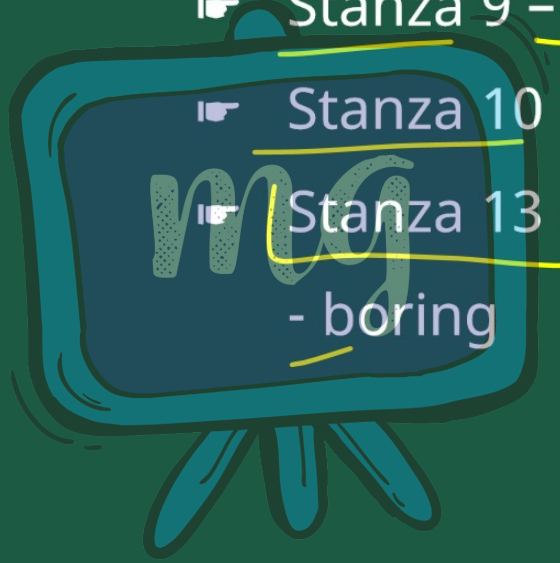
Example

- Stanza 1 – that - they, them - through,
- Stanza 2 – look - like, funny - furry
- Stanza 3 – they – them, yet - you learn – lesson, tell - tale - to
- Stanza 5 – woman – was
- Stanza 6 – faint - fasting

Under CSR Support by ipca | Foundation

missiongyan LET'S LEARN TOGETHER

- Stanza 8 – still - smaller
- Stanza 9 – took - tiny
- Stanza 10 – seem - small
- Stanza 13 – build - birds, by - boring - boring

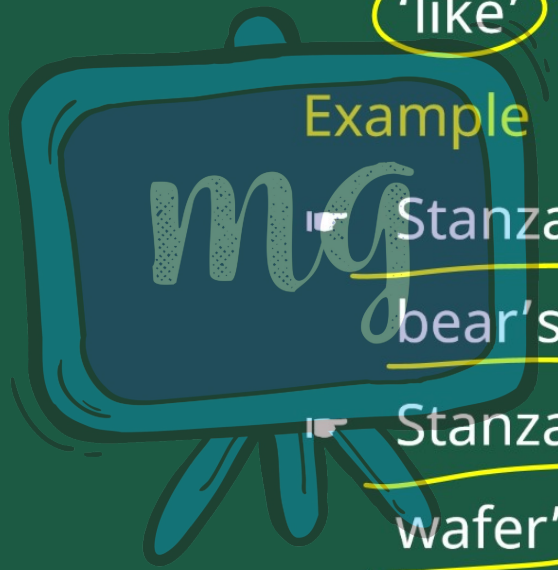


Under CSR Support by ipca | Foundation

missiongyan LET'S LEARN TOGETHER

4. Simile: Comparison using 'as' or 'like'

Metaphor – as, like ✗



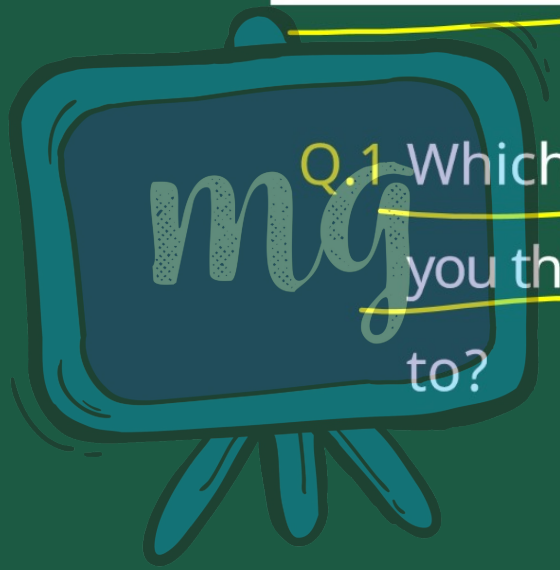
Example

- Stanza 2 – 'the children look like bear's cubs'.
- Stanza 9 – 'baked it thin as a wafer'.
- Stanza 15 – 'clothes were burned black as a coal'.

Under CSR Support by
ipca | Foundation

missiongyan
LET'S LEARN TOGETHER

THINKING ABOUT THE POEM



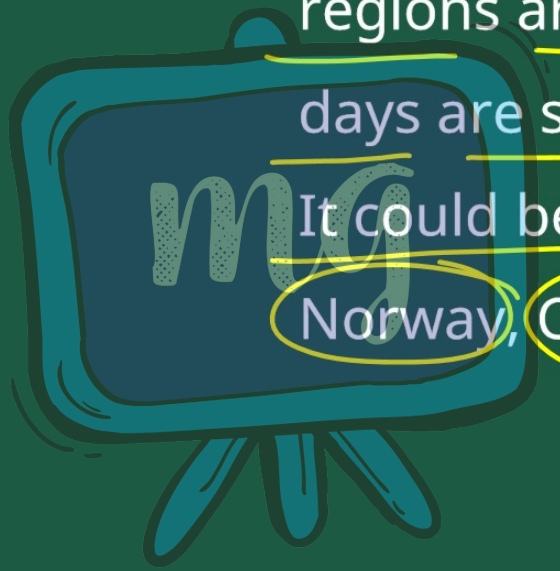
I

Q.1 Which country or countries do you think "the Northland" refers to?

Under CSR Support by ipca | Foundation

missiongyan LET'S LEARN TOGETHER

Answer: The Northland refers to regions around the north where days are short and nights are long. It could be any country like Russia, Norway, Canada etc.



Under CSR Support by ipca | Foundation

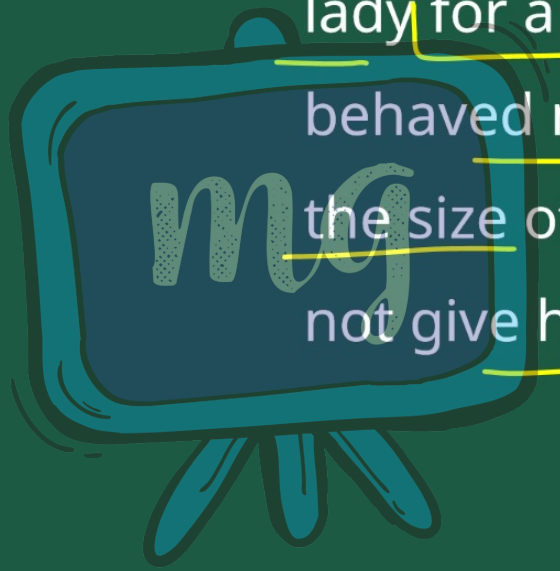
missiongyan LET'S LEARN TOGETHER

Q.2 What did Saint Peter ask the old lady for? What was the lady's reaction?



Under CSR Support by ipca | Foundation

missiongyan LET'S LEARN TOGETHER

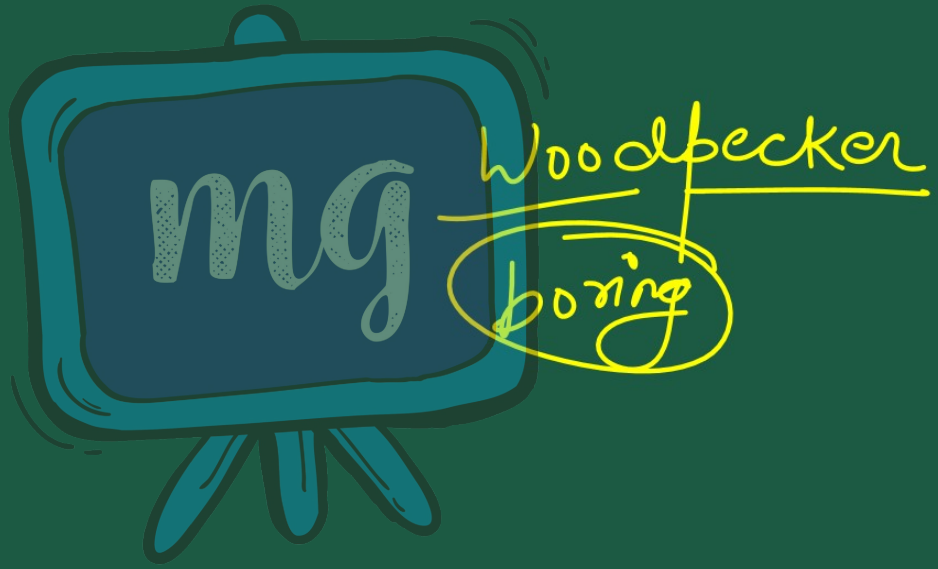


Answer: Saint Peter asked the old lady for a piece of cake. The lady behaved miserly and kept decreasing the size of the cake. At last she did not give him anything to eat.

Under CSR Support by
ipca | Foundation

missiongyan
LET'S LEARN TOGETHER

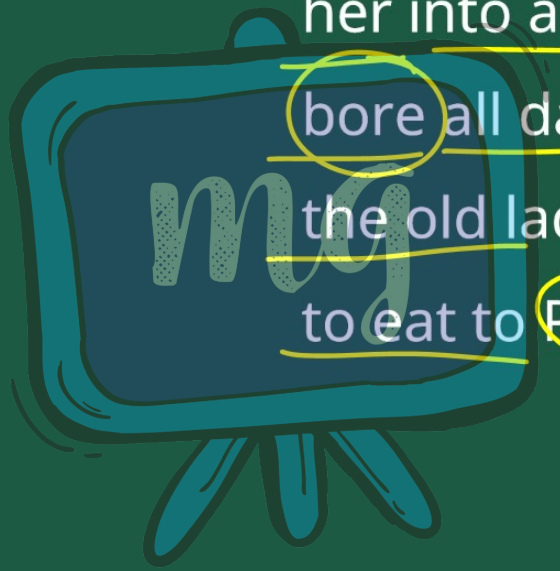
Q.3 How did he punish her?



Under CSR Support by ipca | Foundation

missiongyan LET'S LEARN TOGETHER

Answer: He punished her by turning her into a woodpecker that had to bore all day the dry wood. When the old lady did not give anything to eat to Peter.



Under CSR Support by
ipca | Foundation

missiongyan
LET'S LEARN TOGETHER

Q.4 How does the woodpecker get her food?



Under CSR Support by
ipca | Foundation

missiongyan
LET'S LEARN TOGETHER

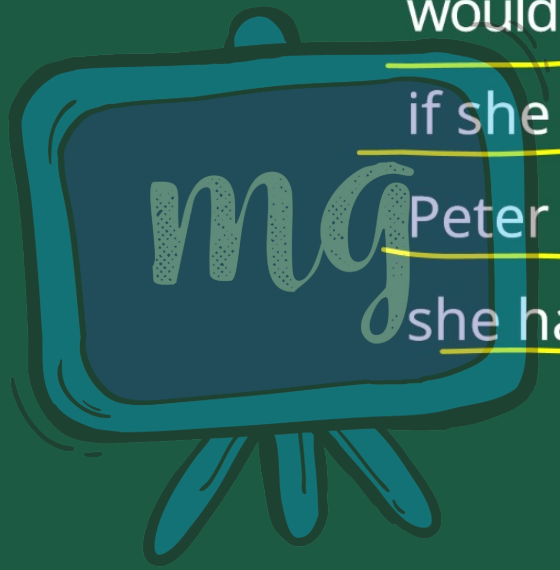
Answer: The woodpecker bores the hard and dry wood to get her food.



Under CSR Support by ipca | Foundation

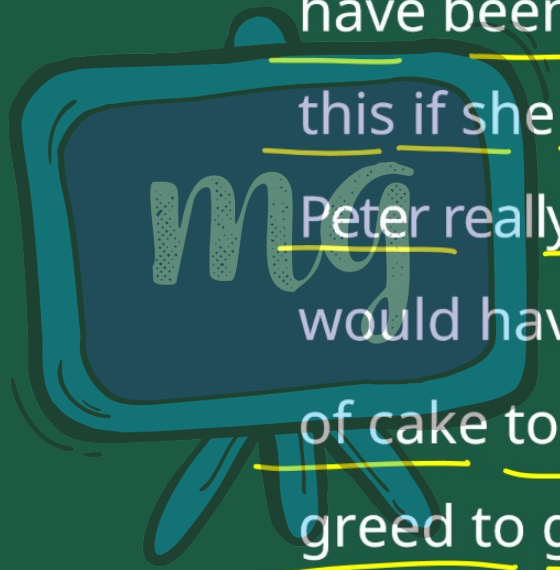
missiongyan LET'S LEARN TOGETHER

Q.5 Do you think that the old lady would have been so ungenerous if she had known who Saint Peter really was? What would she have done then?



Under CSR Support by ipca | Foundation

missiongyan LET'S LEARN TOGETHER



Answer: I don't think she would not have been ungenerous and done this if she had known who Saint Peter really was. On the contrary, she would have given him a large piece of cake to make him happy with the greed to get a handsome return.

Under CSR Support by ipca | Foundation

missiongyan LET'S LEARN TOGETHER

Q.6 Is this a true story? Which part of this poem do you feel is the most important?

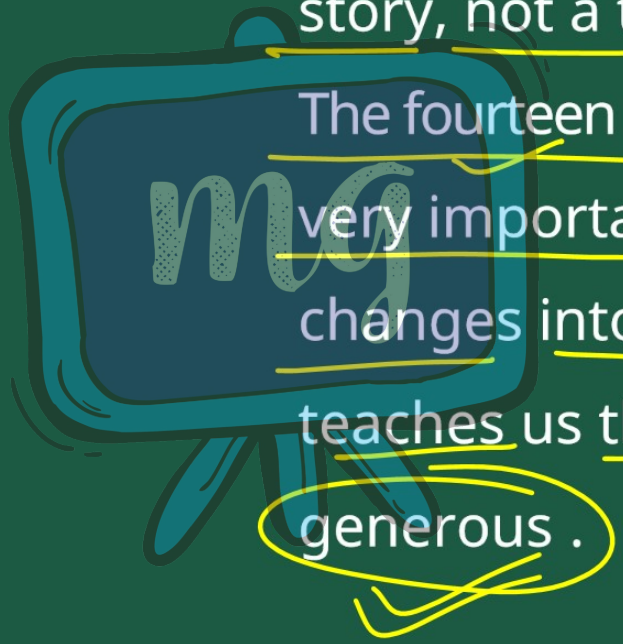


old lady → woodpecker

Under CSR Support by ipca | Foundation

missiongyan LET'S LEARN TOGETHER

Answer: No, it is an imaginative story, not a true story. It is a legend. The fourteen stanza of the poem is very important where the woman changes into a woodpecker since it teaches us the lesson to be generous .



Under CSR Support by ipca | Foundation

missiongyan LET'S LEARN TOGETHER

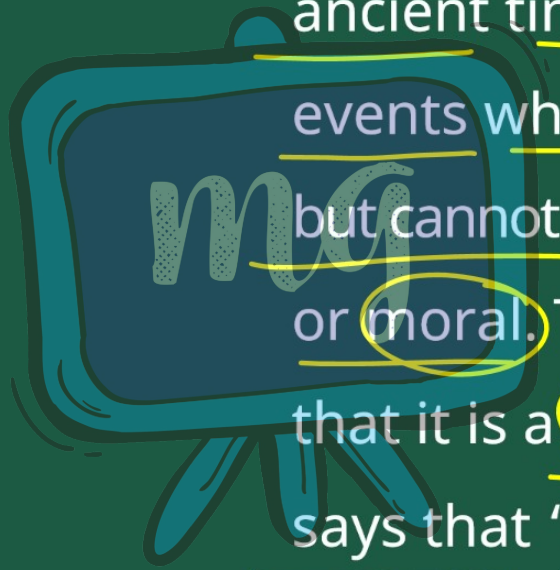
Q.7 What is a legend? Why is this poem called a legend?



A Legend of the Northland

Under CSR Support by ipca | Foundation

missiongyan LET'S LEARN TOGETHER



Answer: A legend is a story from ancient times about people and events which is believed to be true but cannot be verified. It has message or moral. The title of the poem tells that it is a legend. The poet herself says that 'I don't believe it is true'.

Under CSR Support by ipca | Foundation

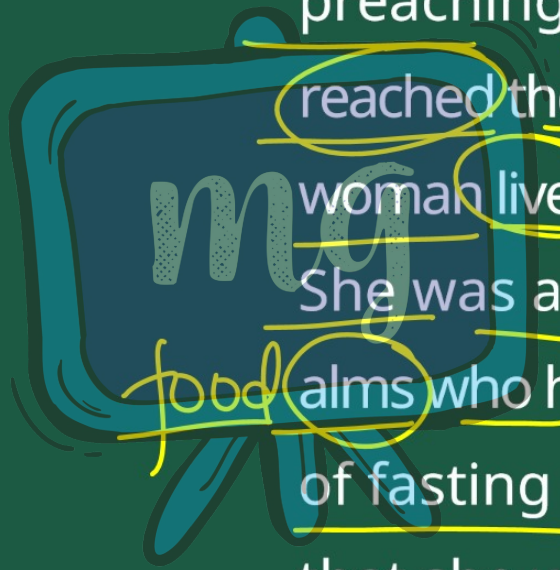
missiongyan LET'S LEARN TOGETHER

Q.8 Write the story of ‘A Legend of the Northland’ in about ten sentences.



Under CSR Support by ipca | Foundation

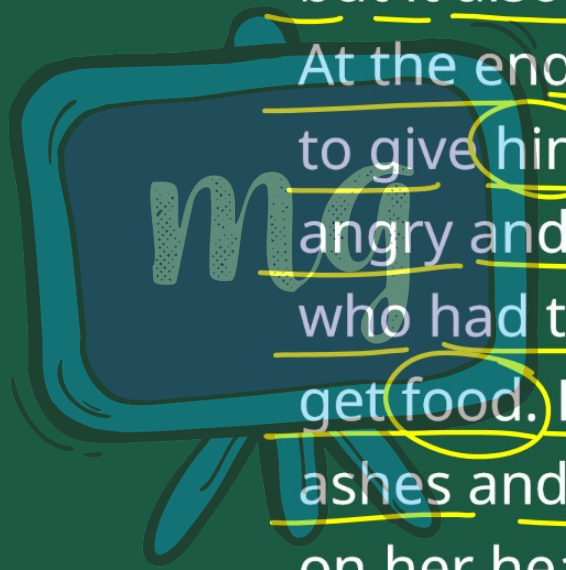
missiongyan LET'S LEARN TOGETHER



Answer: One day, Saint Peter was preaching around the world and reached the door of a cottage where a woman lived. She was baking cakes. She was asked by Saint Peter for alms who had become weak because of fasting and travelling. The cake that she was baking then appeared to be too big to give away.

Under CSR Support by ipca | Foundation

missiongyan LET'S LEARN TOGETHER



So she baked another smaller one but it also seemed too big to her. At the end her greed forced her not to give him anything. He became angry and made her a woodpecker who had to bore hard, dry wood to get food. Her clothes were burnt to ashes and she was left with a cap on her head. She continued boring into hard wood for her little food. Till now she has to bore all day.

Under CSR Support by ipca | Foundation

missiongyan LET'S LEARN TOGETHER

II

Q.1 Let's look at words at the end of the second and fourth lines, viz., 'snows' and 'clothes', 'true' and 'you', 'below' and 'know'. We find that 'snows' rhymes with 'clothes', 'true' rhymes with 'you' and 'below' rhymes with 'know'.

Find more such rhyming words

Under CSR Support by ipca | Foundation

missiongyan LET'S LEARN TOGETHER

Answer : The rhyming words in the poem are :-

- Earth-hearth
- done-one
- lay-away
- another-over
- flat-that
- faint-saint
- form- warm
- food-wood
- same-flame.