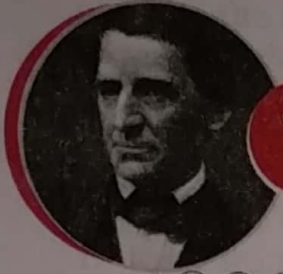


POETRY



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THE MOUNTAIN AND THE SQUIRREL

—Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803–1882)



About the Poet : *Ralph Waldo Emerson was an American poet and he was born on 25 May, 1803 in Boston. He was essayist, philosopher and poet. He became an active lecturer in Boston. In 1829, he became Minister of second church at Unitarian of Boston. His first book 'Nature' was published in 1836. In 1860 'Conduct of Life', 'Power', 'Wealth', 'Fate', 'Culture' were the first of his books to enjoy immediate popularity. He died on 27 April, 1882 in Concord.*

About the Poem (Theme) : *This poem is a dialogue between a mountain and a squirrel. The mountain, in its towering bigness, looks down upon the squirrel and calls it a 'little prig'. The squirrel justifies its existence. In God's creation both the big and the small, the rich and the poor, have a distinct quality and a definite place.*

[1] The mountain and the squirrel
Had a quarrel,
And the former called the latter 'Little prig'.

[2] Bun replied,
You are doubtless very big;
But all sorts of things and weather
Must be taken in together
To make up a year
And a sphere,

[3] And I think it no disgrace
To occupy my place.
If I'm not so large as you,
You are not so small as I,
And not half so spry;
I'll not deny you make
A very pretty squirrel track.



- [4] Talents differ; all is well and wisely put;
 'If I cannot carry forests on my back,
 Neither can you crack a nut.'

Glossary

prig	:	a self satisfied person आत्म-संतोषी
bun	:	here it means a squirrel गिलहरी
doubtless	:	certainly निःसन्देह
disgrace	:	cause of shame or discredit शर्म की बात
spry	:	lively, energetic, active चुस्त, फुर्तीला
sphere	:	universe, world विश्व/ब्रह्माण्ड
'If I cannot.....nut'	:	If I cannot have forests on my back, you cannot break a nut either. यदि मैं अपनी पीठ पर जंगल नहीं उगा सकती तो तुम भी एक अखरोट नहीं तोड़ सकते।
the former	:	the first पहले वाला (यहाँ पर्वत के लिए former आया है।)
the latter	:	the second बाद वाला (the squirrel).
talents	:	abilities योग्यताएँ

EXERCISE

Comprehension

In the examination paper, there are asked only two questions from each stanza. Given below are some more questions for extra practice.

Read the following stanzas and answer the questions given thereupon :

(1) *The mountain and the squirrel* 'Little prig'. (Stanza 1)

1. Write the name of the poem and poet of the above stanza.
2. Who had a quarrel ?
3. Why did the mountain call the squirrel 'Little prig' ?
4. What does the 'Little prig' mean ?

(2) *Bun replied,* *And a sphere.* (Stanza 2)

1. What was the mountain proud of ?
2. What example does the squirrel give to prove that it is as important as the other things that go to make up the year ?
3. Who says these lines to whom ?
4. Pickout the rhyming words from the stanza.

(3) *And I think* *squirrel track.* (Stanza 3)

1. Why does the squirrel not feel ashamed of its smallness ?
2. How does it differ from the mountain ?

(4) *Talents differ,* *crack a nut'.* (Stanza 4)

1. How does the squirrel differ from the mountain ?
2. 'All is well and wisely put.' Explain. Whose praise is this ?



(5) I'll deny crack a nut'. (Stanza 3, 4)

1. Who has put all well and wisely?
2. Who was not able to carry forest on his back?
3. Sort out the rhyming words in the above stanza.

(6) Project Work :

1. Write the meaning of the following words :
entire, whole, full, complete, less, least.
2. If you have read any poem related to patriotism, write it.

APPRECIATION OF THE POEM

Answer the following questions :

1. Read from 'You are doubtless to crack a nut.'
Who says this ? Is it (a) the mountain, (b) the squirrel, (c) partly the mountain and partly the squirrel ?
2. Does the squirrel always find fault with the mountain ? Quote the lines to support your answer.
3. Which of the following words describe the squirrel best ?
quarrelsome, self-satisfied, self-respecting, proud, timid.
4. Give the central idea of the poem.