


**Lesson :5 THE BROOK**

(Alfred Lord Tennyson)

**Summary**

This poem The Brook is written by a Victorian poet Alfred Tennyson. In this poem the Brook narrates a tale of its own journey.

The brook speaks about its emergence from a mountain and the resort of water birds. It sparkles and shines among the fern. Then the brook flows down the hill into a valley with a turbulent flow. Then it flow past hills, ridges, villages, a town and under many bridges.

The brook continues its journey through the fields and meanders through the plains. As the brook flows through the plains its pace slows down. It becomes calm and quiet. And then it pours its water into the overflowing river.

**Thinking about the Poem**

**Q1) Who is “I” referred to as in the poem?**

**Ans.** “I” is referred to the brook itself.

**Q2) Trace the journey of the brook.**

**Ans.** The brook starts its journey on the hill tops frequented by water birds. Then the brook rushes down the hill into the valleys and plains. It passes by a town, many grasslands, many hamlets, and half a hundred bridges. As it flows through the plains its pace slows down, it becomes calm and quiet. Finally it joins the brimming river.

**Q3) Explain the following lines:**

**“For men may come and men may go**

**But I go on forever”**

**Ans.** In these lines the brook says that men come to this world and leave it. Robert Herrick compares human with blossoms who have short span of life. Likewise, Tennyson gives way to the same ideology with the help of his speaker, The Brook. He says that unlike humans the journey of The Brook is unending.

**Q4) Pick out examples of alliteration from the poem.**

**Ans.** Hills-hurry, sudden-sally, field-fallow, willow-weed, etc.

**Q5) Can the journey of the brook life be compared to human life? How?**

**Ans.** Yes the journey of the brook can be compared to human life. The brook has to pass lot of hurdles like mountains, ridges, bridges, farms, fallows, etc. to join the river. Likewise, man has also to face many difficulties and tensions of life before his death.


**Lesson: 4 RUSTUM AND SOHRAB**
**Q1) Why was Rustum not able to live with his wife?**

**Ans.** Rustum had to part with his wife because he was called by the king of Persia. The king felt unsafe in his absence.

**Q2) Why did Tanimeh send word to Rustum that their child was a daughter?**

**Ans.** She did so because she was afraid that if Rustum would come to know that he had a son, he would take him away and make him follow his foot steps. Tanimeh did not want to lose her son as she had lost her husband.

**Q3) What secret did Sohrab learnt from his mother?**

**Ans.** The secret Sohrab learnt from his mother was that he was the son of Rustum, the shield of Persia.

**Q4) What did Tanimeh want Sohrab to do when he met his father?**

**Ans.** Tanimeh wanted Sohrab to show the precious stone to his father, Rustum so that he could recognize his son.

**Q5) Why was Rustum at first not ready to fight Sohrab?**

**Ans.** Rustum did not want to fight Sohrab because he had grown old and had to look after his aged father in a far away village.

**Q6) Why did Rustum not tell Sohrab who he was?**

**Ans.** Rustum did not tell Sohrab who he was because he thought that if he did so Sohrab might withdraw from the fight and make peace with him.

**Q7) How was Sohrab wounded?**

**Ans.** Rustum, after fighting for three days with Sohrab, felt that he was going to lose the fight. Then Rustum uttered his war cry "Rustum!" which made Sohrab nervous and he dropped his shield. Rustum, in an instant thrust his sword into Sohrab's body.

**Q8) What were Sohrab's last words?**

**Ans.** Sohrab told his father to take him home and bury him there so that people will say, "Here lies Sohrab, the mighty Rustum's son, whom his father did kill in ignorance".