

3.3 To a Butterfly

Warming up!

Chit-Chat

- What games did you play when you were a small child – in pre-primary or primary school?
- Who were your playmates?
- What do you remember best from that time?



Encourage the students to prepare small cards with the description and pictures of any one game they played.

Short Poems

- Use the following formats to write your own poems.

noun

noun + verb

noun + verb + adverb

determiner/adjective + noun + verb + adverb

exclamation

noun + verb

If necessary, the teacher should revise the parts of speech mentioned in the activity and write plenty of examples of each on the blackboard.

adjective 1

adjective 2

adjective 3

adjective 4

adjective 5

noun

verb

verb + adverb

verb + adverb + adverb

noun + verb + adverb + adverb

determiner/adjective + noun + verb + adverb + adverb

question (simple/rhetorical)

Rolling
Roaring
Boundless
Deep
Blue
Sea ...

Cute
Little
Black
Naughty
Playful-
Kitten!

Students can use other functional words like prepositions and conjunctions if necessary to make their writing more meaningful and correct.

To a Butterfly

- thee : you
- Thou : you
- bringst : bring
- art : are



- ♦ Is the poet a grown-up person or a child?

- brake : a place overgrown with bushes

STAY near me—do not take thy flight!
A little longer stay in sight!
Much converse do I find in thee,
Historian of my infancy!
Float near me; do not yet depart!
Dead times revive in thee:
Thou bring'st, gay creature as thou art!
A solemn image to my heart,
My father's family!

Oh! pleasant, pleasant were the days,
The time, when, in our childish plays,
My sister Emmeline and I
Together chased the butterfly!
A very hunter did I rush
Upon the prey—with leaps and springs
I followed on from brake to bush;
But she, God love her, feared to brush
The dust from off its wings.

— William Wordsworth



1. Pick out from the first stanza, four expressions where the poet pleads with the butterfly not to go away.

-
-
-
-

2. Match the words/lines and their meaning.

Words/Lines

Meaning

- Do not take thy flight : reminder of my childhood days
- Much converse do I find in thee : I want to talk to you about many things
- Historian of my infancy : Do not fly away
- Dead time revive in thee : I rushed upon the prey (butterfly)
- A very hunter did I rush upon the prey : In you, I see the time that has gone by

3. Say WHO –

- (a) Reminds the poet of his childhood
- (b) Is afraid to touch the butterfly
- (c) Is like a hunter
- (d) Is the poet’s sister

4. Sometimes, the normal word order is changed in the lines of a poem, to emphasise something or to make the lines sound better. This change in word order is called ‘inversion’.

Can you find examples of inversion in this poem? Write them down. Then rewrite the lines using regular word order and compare the effect.

Example : A little longer stay in sight!

Stay in sight a liittle longer.



5. The rhyme scheme of the first stanza is a a b b c b c c b.

Now write the rhyming words in the second stanza.

Note the words ‘rush’, ‘bush’, ‘brush’. Their spellings look similar, but the pronunciation of the words is different. It is known as **eye rhyme**.

Find examples of ‘eye rhymes’ and true rhymes from other sources.

