

To a Butterfly

- William Wordsworth

Summary:

The grown-up person is the speaker in this poem. He is speaking to a butterfly. The speaker requests the butterfly not to take its flight. It should stay a little longer *in* the speaker's sight. The speaker tells the butterfly that he wants to talk to the butterfly about many things. The speaker thinks that the butterfly is a reminder of his childhood days. He requests the butterfly to stay up in the air near him and not to go away. The speaker says that butterfly reminds him many past incidents from his *life*. The speaker is talking about his childhood memories. The speaker and his sister chased the butterfly as a part of their childhood games. The childhood days were pleasant. The speaker considers himself as a hunter. He followed the butterfly with sudden quick movement, and jumps through the bushes. But the speaker's sister is afraid of touching the wings of butterfly.

1. Choose the correct alternative and complete the following sentences.

- 1) The poet is the speaker in these lines.
- 2) The speaker is a grown-up person.
- 3) The speaker is speaking to the butterfly.
- 4) The speaker wants to converse many things with the butterfly.
- 5) The speaker thinks that childhood days were pleasant.
- 6) The speaker thinks that the speaker is a hunter.
- 7) his sister was afraid of touching the butterfly.

2. Match the following items properly.

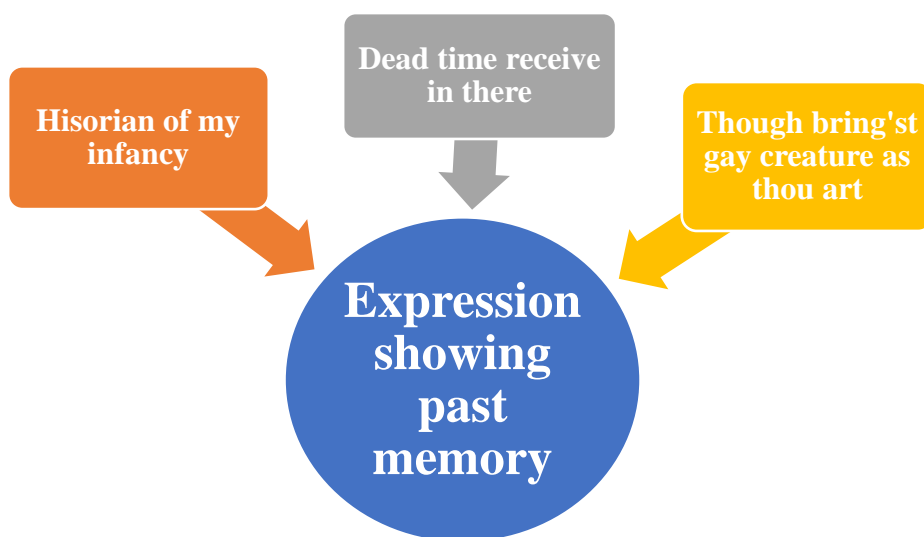
Column 'A'	Column 'Answer'	Column 'B'
1. The speaker and his sister	c) chased the butterfly.	a) speaker's sister.
2. The speaker's sister was	d) afraid of touching the butterfly.	b) a reminder of poet's
3. The butterfly is	b) a reminder of poet's	c) chased the butterfly.
4. Emmeline is	a) speaker's sister.	d) afraid of touching the butterfly.

3 . State whether the following sentences are True or False.

- 1) The speaker's sister always touched the butterfly. - False
- 2) The speaker reminded pleasant days of his childhood. -True
- 3) The speaker followed on the butterfly from brake to bush. -True
- 4) The speaker requests the butterfly to fly away. - False

AI-Activity Based on Complex Factual Understanding

1. Complete the following web.



A3 • Activity Based on Vocabulary:

1. Point out the old-fashioned words from the poem and give their meanings.

- Ans:** 1) Thee = you 2) Thou = you
3) bring'st =bring 4) art = are

2. Point out the describing words for the following.

- 1) days = pleasant 2) plays = childish
3) image = solemn 4) times = dead

3. Point out the rhyming words.

- Ans:** flight - sight, heart - depart, days - plays,
rush - brush, springs - wings.

4. Guess the meaning of -

- 1) revive = bring back to life
- 2) solemn = religiously serious
- 3) converse = talk
- 4) infancy = early childhood

5. What is the rhyme scheme of second stanza.

Ans: aabbcdcc

6. Pick out an example of alliteration.

Ans: I followed on from brake to bush.

7. Pick out an example of repetition.

Ans: Oh! Pleasant, pleasant were the days.

Margin Questions :

1) Is the poet a grown-up person or a child?

Ans: The poet is a grown-up person who fondly recalls back to his childhood days while chasing of butterflies.

English Workshop

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

Ans:

- 1) Stay near me.
- 2) Do not take thy flight
- 3) A little longer stay in sight
- 4) Float near me, do not yet depart!

2. Match the words/lines and their meaning.

Words/lines	Meaning (Answers)
1) Do not take any flight	- Do not fly away
2) Much converse do I find in thee	- I want to talk to you about many things
3) Historian of my infancy	- reminder of my childhood days

4) Dead time revive in thee	- In you, I see the time that has gone by.
5) A very hunter did I rush upon the prey	- I rush upon the prey(Butterfly)

3. Say WHO-

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

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 orders 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 I**

Ans:

Other Examples:

1) Much converse do I find in thee.

Regular word order - **I do find much converse in thee.**

2) You bring'st gay creature as thou art!

Regular word order - **As thou art gay creature you**

Bring'st a solemn image my father's family to my heart.

S. Write the rhyming words in the second stanza.

Ans: days - plays I - butterfly
rush – brush springs -wings.

6. Find examples of 'eye rhymes' and true rhymes from other sources.

Ana:

Eye rhymes	True rhymes

temperate – date
this – amiss
compare – are
brood – blood
prove – love
see – tree

paws -jaws
flood - blood
ran· van
keep-weep
stood- wood