

1.3 In Time of Silver Rain



In time of silver rain
The earth
Puts forth new life again,
Green grasses grow
And flowers lift their heads,
And over all the plain
The wonder spreads.
Of life,
Of life,
Of life!

In time of silver rain
The butterflies
Lift silken wings
To catch a rainbow cry,
And trees put forth
New leaves to sing
In joy beneath the sky
As down the roadway
Passing boys and girls
Go singing, too,
In time of silver rain
When spring
And life
Are new.

– Langston Hughes

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Langston Hughes was an American writer and activist, who won many awards and honours for his work. He started a new style of writing poetry in which rhythm and spontaneous expression are important. In this poem, he describes how rain brings joy and life.

ENGLISH WORKSHOP

1. Find the pairs of rhyming words used at the end of the lines in the poem.
2. Read the poem aloud using proper intonation.
3. If you were to draw a landscape on the basis of this poem, what elements will you show in it? What colours will you use?
4. The special arrangement of short lines makes you think about every detail. If you write the sentences in the usual manner, it does not have the same effect. For example, the first stanza would be something like ‘The earth puts forth new life again; green grasses grow and flowers lift their heads and the wonder of life spreads all over the plain in time of silver rain.’

Now try the following :

Write one or two sentences about something beautiful, using your own experience or imagination. Then rearrange the words in the sentences in a poetic form. You may write about a beautiful day, a beautiful night, a stream, a crop standing in a field, a graceful bird or animal, etc.

5. Fill in the following blanks with reference to the poem.
‘In time of rain when spring and life are, the butterflies lift wings to catch a cry and trees put forth leaves to sing in beneath the sky as boys and girls too singing down the roadway’.
6. **Think and answer :**
 - (a) Is the poet talking about heavy rains in the rainy season or rain that has come after a long time?
 - (b) Are the boys and girls happy that it is raining?
7. Find out the following with the help of your teacher and the internet.
 - Seasonal Rains (monsoon) in India and other countries.
 - Rain in countries like UK which experience spring-summer-autumn-winter.
8. **Talk about** your favourite season. (A one minute activity.)
9. Language Study : **Alliteration** : When the same sound occurs at the beginning of two or more words in the same line, it is called alliteration.
Example : Nayna needs new notebooks.
Find an example of alliteration from the poem.
Collect other examples of alliteration.