



STEPPING STONE
SCHOOL. (HIGH)

CLASS VII

Subject: English

Date: 07.05.2020

Topic: *The Vagabond* (Poem)

Time Limit: 45 Minutes

Worksheet 10

Copy the notes given below on a sheet of paper and keep them filed to be submitted on the opening day.

Read this poem that celebrates the freedom and joy of a wanderer.

Give to me the life I love,
Let the lave go by me,
Give the jolly heaven above
And the byway nigh me.
Bed in the bush with stars to see,
Bread I dip in the river—
There's the life for a man like me,
There's the life for ever.

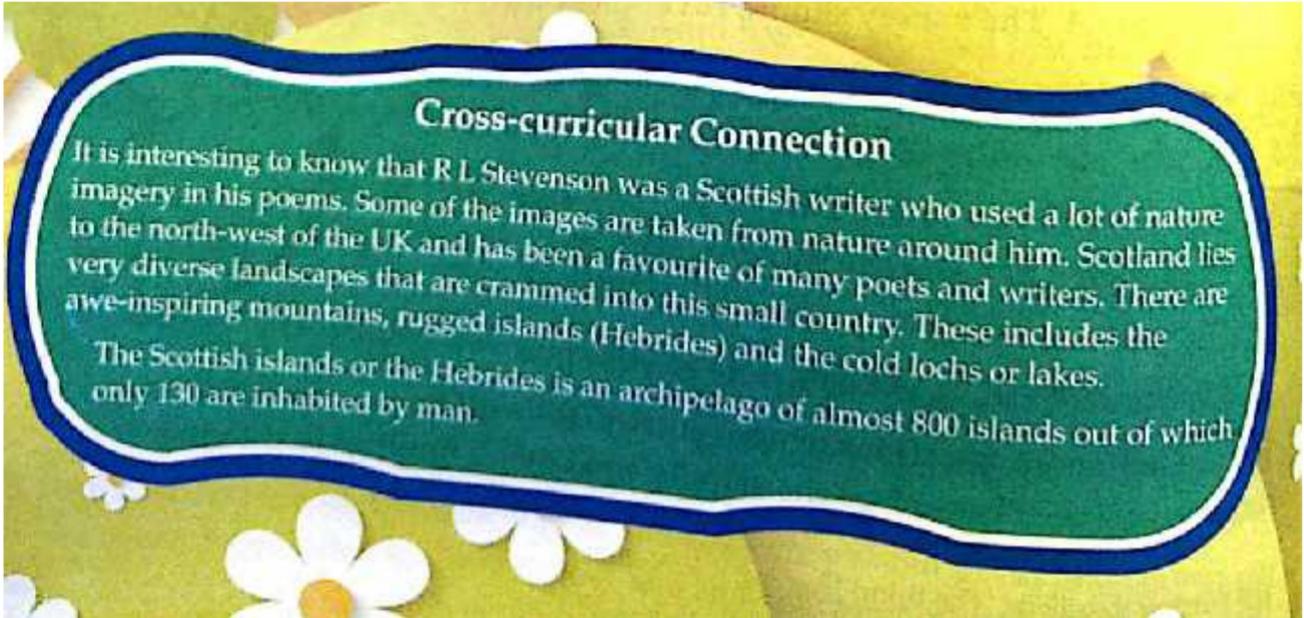
Let the blow fall soon or late,
Let what will be o'er me;
Give the face of earth around
And the road before me.
Wealth I seek not, hope nor love,
Nor a friend to know me,
All I seek, the heaven above
And the road below me.

Or let autumn fall on me
Where a field I linger,
Silencing the bird on tree,
Biting the blue finger.
White as meal the frosty field—
Warm the fireside haven—
Not to autumn will I yield,
Not to winter even!

Let the blow fall soon or late,
Let what will be o'er me;
Give the face of earth around,
And the road before me.
Wealth I ask not, hope nor love,
Nor a friend to know me,
All I ask, the heaven above
And the road below me.

R L Stevenson

About the Poet:



STEP 1



Listen to the content on the following

link: <https://youtu.be/5jDO14rSN6Y>



Now, try to recite the poem with proper tone, stress and intonation as you have already listened to the above link.

STEP 2



Copy *The Meanings* provided below. Make your presentation neat.

- i. **Lave**:leavings; what is left; the rest
- ii. **Jolly**:jovial; cheerful
- iii. **Byway**:a side road, not the main thoroughfare or highway
- iv. **Nigh**:near
- v. **Blow**:troubles or challenges
- vi. **Afield**: in the field
- vii. **Linger**: spend a while
- viii. **Meal**:grains of cereal after a coarse grinding
- ix. **Heaven**:(here) a safe place
- x. **Yield**:surrender

STEP 3

 Now, copy *The Description* as well as *The Summary* of the poem. Make sure that your presentation is neat.

The Description:

Robert Louis Stevenson's poem, *The Vagabond* (Collected from *Songs of Travel*) celebrates the glorious freedom and independence of a tramp's life. All the four stanzas of *The Vagabond* repeatedly emphasize the unrestrained joys of an independent life in the outdoors free from all its hassles.

The Summary:

- Stevenson begins the poem by asking to be given the life that he loves. In the first stanza itself, the speaker summarizes the joys of the life he loves. He has the radiant sky above him. He has the byway right at hand near to him. When he sleeps at night, he sleeps in nature's natural bed and has the ceiling of the sky above him. For breakfast, he dips his morning bread in the fresh cool river instead of in a cup of coffee or tea.
- All that the vagabond is interested in is a life of unlimited travel. He wants to completely avoid all human associations. The second stanza, also repeated as the fourth stanza, describes his sentiment that whether the storms of autumn come early or late, he wants the earth around him (not four walls) and the road beneath his feet. He makes it clear that the only thing he seeks to have is the sky above and the road to follow beneath him.
- In the next stanza he speaks of harsh conditions in autumn and winter. He gives a sketch of the hardships of life outdoors: "blue" frostbite on the fingers; the silent birds; frosty fields as white as flour; the absence of a warm fireside sanctuary. Yet he insists that he will not yield to the harshness of autumn or even winter. He would like to spend his entire life in the outdoors even in the cold autumn and winter months with the sky as his roof. He is prepared for the destiny of his fate.
- In the final stanza, he reiterates what he said in the second stanza. The world is big enough for his home and the road before him he will tread. He does not desire the materialism of this world nor a friend to share such worldly fortune. All he wishes for is a place in heaven and the road below him that he must tread in order to reach there.