

1.3 The Pilgrim

WARMING UP

1. Make groups and discuss the following :

- (a) What fatal dangers / problems did mankind face centuries ago, but are no longer a threat today?
- (b) Name a few scientists / explorers / social reformers / inventors / discoverers, who spent most of their lives to find solutions to some major problems / setbacks, that mankind faced.
- (c) Did they themselves suffer from those problems / setbacks?
- (d) What inspired them to spend the best part of their lives to research and share their findings?

2. Read and understand the following poetic devices.

- (A) If two or more words in the same line convey the same meaning, the Figure of Speech in that line is called **Tautology**.

For example : It brought joy and cheer.

They groaned with aches and pains.

- (B) Poets often change the proper grammatical order of words in the line of a poem, in order to make the lines rhyme or to emphasize upon something. The Figure of Speech in such lines is called '**Inversion**' or '**Anastrophe**.'

For example : Up came the sun. Down the hill, it flowed.

- (C) When a question is asked in order to create a dramatic effect and not to get an answer, in a line of the poem, the Figure of Speech used is called **Interrogation / Rhetorical Question** :

For example : What is this life, if full of care?

When can their glory fade?

The Pilgrim

A pilgrim, going a lone high way
Came at evening, cold and gray
To a **chasm**, deep and vast and wide.
The old man crossed in the twilight dim.
The chasm held no fear for him.
But he paused when he reached the other side
And built a bridge to **span the tide**.

“Old man,” said a fellow pilgrim near,
“Why waste your time in building here?
Your journey ends with the close of the day
You never again will pass this way.
You have crossed the chasm deep and wide
Why build **ye** here at **even tide** ?”

● **chasm** : ravine, a very deep, steep gap in the earth's surface

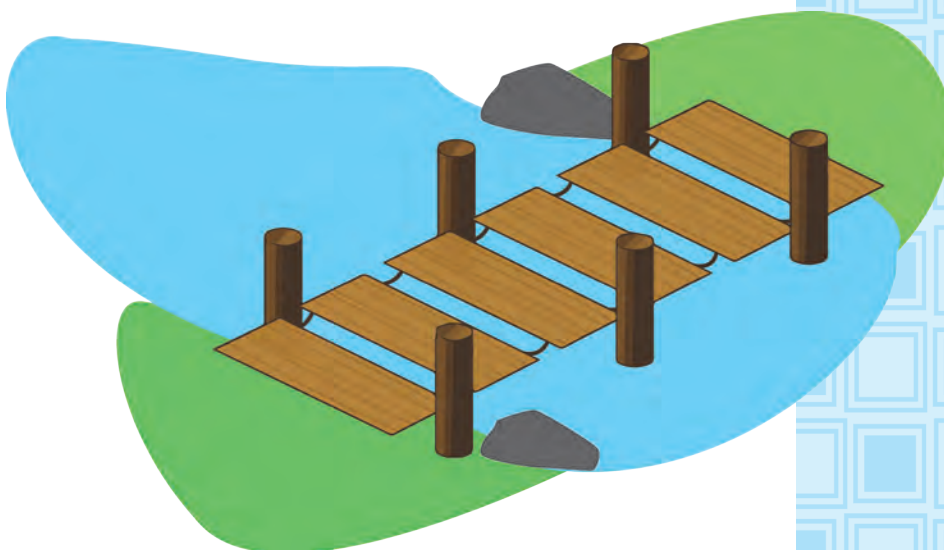
◆ *What did the pilgrim do, although he had already crossed the chasm?*

● **span the tide** : go across the tide

◆ *What puzzled the fellow pilgrim?*

● **ye** : (archaic) you

● **even tide** : late evening



♦ *What could be the third pilgrim?*

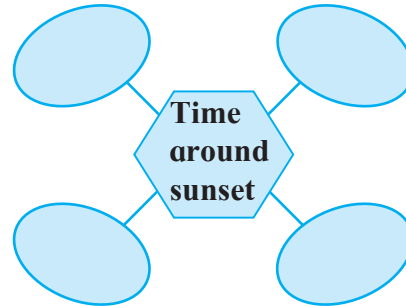
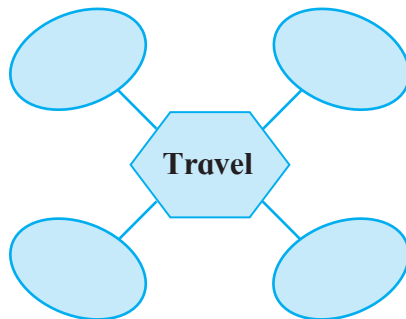
● **pitfall** : trap

The pilgrim raised his old gray head,
 “My friend in the path I’ve come,” he said,
 “There followeth after me today
 A fair haired youth, who must pass this way.
 The chasm which held no fears for me
 To the fair haired youth, may a **pitfall** be.
 He, too, must cross in the twilight dim.
 My friend, I am building this bridge for him.”

– Anonymous

ENGLISH WORKSHOP

1. Pick out words from the poem to fill in the web diagram. They should be related to the theme in the web.



2. The entire poem is metaphorical (Implied comparison).

Match the words in Column A with what they imply in Column B.

A

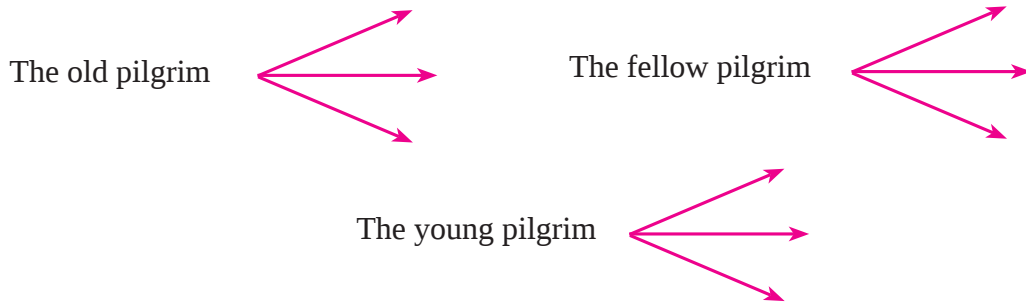
- (1) pilgrim
- (2) journey
- (3) evening or close of day
- (4) chasm, deep and wide
- (5) building a bridge
- (6) pitfall
- (7) close of day

B

- (a) threat to life
- (b) trap
- (c) life
- (d) death
- (e) old age
- (f) a dutiful man
- (g) solving the problem / getting rid of threat to life

(1) (2) (3) (4) (5) (6) (7)

3. (A) Read the poem and write 3 qualities of each of the following.



(B) Answer in your own words.

- Why did the old man have no need to build the bridge, across the chasm ?
- What explanation did he give to the fellow- pilgrim for his thoughtful deed ?
- What message does the poem convey to all of us ?

4. (A) Note the rhyming words in the first stanza.

way - gray / wide-side- tide / dim -him.

The poet has used a deliberate pattern of lines that rhyme with other lines in the poem or the stanza. This pattern can be identified by giving the rhyming pairs of words the same letter of the alphabet.

For example: 1st stanza of this poem has the pattern AABCCBB

So, AABCCBB is called the **Rhyme Scheme** of the 1st stanza of the poem 'The Pilgrim'.

(B) Now write the Rhyme Scheme of the 2nd stanza and 3rd stanza

Remember that a line in the 2nd or 3rd stanza may rhyme with lines in the 1st stanza, too. You may use the same letter of the alphabet as used in the 1st stanza.

(C) Find two lines that contain Inversion.

1.

2.

• Pick out one line each that contains the following Figures of Speech.

(a) Tautology :

(b) Personification :

(c) Interrogation :

5. Imagine that you are the fellow pilgrim and you wish to share your experience of the incident in the poem. Write a short article about it for a magazine / journal. Also convey what change it has brought in your life.

