

### III. TEXTUAL QUESTIONS

#### WORKING WITH THE POEM (Page 23)

**Q. 1.** The cricket says, "Oh ! what will become of me ?" **When does he say it, and why ?**

**Ans.** The cricket speaks these words on the arrival of winter. He says so because he finds that there is no food for him in his house.

**Q. 2.** (i) **Find in the poem the lines that mean the same as 'Neither a borrower nor a lender be' (Shakespeare).**

(ii) **What is your opinion of the ant's principles ?**

**Ans.** (i) The line is :

"We ants never borrow ; we ants never lend."

(ii) I do not agree with the ant's principle. On the other hand, I believe that a friend in need is a friend indeed.

**Q. 3.** The ant tells the cricket to “dance the winter away”. Do you think the word ‘dance’ is appropriate here? If so, why?

**Ans.** Yes the word ‘dance’ is appropriate here. It is so because the cricket had spoken of his love of singing. Singing and dancing go together.

**Q. 4.** (i) Which lines in the poem express the poet’s comment? Read them aloud.

(ii) Write the comment in your own words.

**Ans.** (i) The lines are :

“Folks call this a fable ; I’ll warrant it true.

Some crickets have four legs, and some have two.”

(ii) People say that this is a short story with a moral. However it is true. There are people in this world who spend all their earnings. They do not save anything for the future. In the moments of crisis or in their old age they come to grief. They find they have no money to depend upon. Such people, says the poet, are like the cricket of the story.



stick to each of them. They easily broke them. Thus, the old unity. He told his sons that if they remained united no one would ever

#### IV. OTHER IMPORTANT QUESTIONS

##### A. Short Answer Type Questions

**Q. 1. Why does the poet call the cricket in the poem 'silly'?**

**Ans.** The poet calls the cricket silly. It did not use good weather to collect food and make a shelter for the winter.

**Q. 2. What was the state of the cricket's home?**

**Ans.** There was no food. The cupboard was empty.

**Q. 3. What was the state of the weather?**

**Ans.** The earth was covered with snow. There were no flowers. There were no leaves on the trees.

**Q. 4. What did the cricket do when he began to starve?**

**Ans.** When the cricket began to starve it went to an ant. The cricket wanted to borrow some food and shelter from the ant.

**Q. 5. The miserly ant spoke of a principle. What is it?**

**Ans.** The miserly ant said, "We ants never borrow, we ants never lend."

**Q. 6. What did the cricket do during summer and spring? Why?**

**Ans.** The cricket kept on singing all through the summer and spring. He did so because he felt very happy at heart.

(Imp.)

**B. Long Answer Type Questions**

**Q. 1.** What sort of a creature was the cricket? What did he do when the weather was fine? What happened to him in winter?

**Ans.** The cricket was a foolish creature. He spent all summer and spring enjoying himself. He did not worry about the winter. When the winter came, he began to starve. He had not prepared a shelter for himself. So when the rain arrived, he was dripping wet. In short he was hungry and trembling with cold. It was then that he took courage and went to a miserly ant. He wanted to borrow some food and a shelter from rain.

**Q. 2.** What did the cricket say to the ant? How did the ant react to it? (Imp.)

**Ans.** The cricket requested the ant to give him shelter from rain. He also requested the ant to lend him a small amount of grain. He said that he would pay the ant back after a while. He only wanted to borrow. He said that if the ant did not do what he wanted, he might die.

The miserly ant said that he considered the cricket a friend. However, he said that the ants neither borrowed nor lent. The ant said that since he had passed summer singing, he should pass winter dancing. So saying, the ant turned the cricket out of his house.