

- WH Davies.

Summary.

In this poem, the poet William Henry Davies is complaining about our busy life. We have no time to admire the nature around us. We cannot even spare a few moments to stand under the branches of trees to enjoy and relax in the shade like the sheep and cows. We are always in such a hurry that we don't see small animals like squirrels hiding their food in the grass for the cold winter. During the daytime, when the rays of the sun fall on the clear water of the river, the reflection shines like the stars in the sky which busy people have no time to see. The poet also compares the beauty of nature to the dancing girl with a smiling face but we have no time to stand in one place and enjoy the beautiful gifts of nature. He tells us to take time off from our work to appreciate nature which can refresh and rejuvenate us.

Word Meanings.

1. care - worry , stress , tension
2. stare - keep looking at something
3. beneath - under
4. bough - branch
5. woods - forest
6. streams - small rivers
7. glance - look.

Answer these questions.

1. Why according to the poet is our life 'full of care' ?

Ans. According to the poet, our life is 'full of care' because we are so busy and have many worries and tension about our lives, that we have no moment to spare.

2. How are sheep and cows better than us according to the poet?

Ans. The poet says that the sheep and cows are better than us because they can just stand in one place without any tension and enjoy nature.

3. What are we unable to see as we pass by the woods?

Ans. As we pass by the woods we are unable to see the little animals like squirrels hiding their food in the grass for the winter.

4. Where in nature can we see beauty dancing ?

Ans. We can see beauty dancing in nature in the leaves swaying in the wind, the colourful butterflies flying from flower to flower, the waves of the sea rolling and also the beautiful peacock dancing in the rain.

5. What does the poet call 'poor' at the end of the poem? Why?

Ans. At the end of the poem, the poet calls our life poor because we are so full of worry and tension about our work, wealth and health. We are always in such a hurry that we have no time to enjoy the free gifts of nature.

Reference to Context.

1. No time to stand beneath the bough and stare as long as sheep or cows.

a. Why don't we have any time to stand beneath the boughs according to the poet?

Ans. According to the poet, we are so busy that we have no time to stand beneath the boughs.

b. What does the poet mean by 'stare' in the poem?

Ans. By 'stare' the poet means to do nothing and just keep standing in one place and keep looking at something.

c. What do sheep and cows do?

Ans. They just stand still in one place and enjoy grazing.

d. Why does the poet feel envious of these creatures?

Ans. The poet felt jealous of the creatures because he had lots of worries while the animals were free of all tension.

2. No time to wait till her mouth can

Enrich that smile her eyes began.

a. Who is 'her' in these lines ?

Ans. 'Her' refers to the beautiful nature.

b. What does the poem mean by 'that smile her eyes began'?

Ans. By 'that smile her eyes began' the poet means that nature is like a girl who is smiling. First her eyes smile and then slowly spreads to her lips.

c. What is the poet hinting at in these lines?

Ans. In these lines the poet is hinting that we are so busy and fail to notice the beautiful sights in nature.

d. What does the poet mean by seven 'no time'?

Ans. By repeating the phrase 'no time' the poet means that we are always so busy and have no time to enjoy the beauty of life and nature.

Write down five pairs of rhyming words from the poem.

1. pass , grass

1. glance , dance

2. care , stare

3. cows , boughs

5 can , began
