Chapter 3: The Rainbow

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Exercise 3.1 — New Words

Q1 Give the meaning of the word 'overtops'.

SOLUTION

The poem says the rainbow 'overtops the trees', meaning it rises above them.

Answer: Overtops means rises above or is taller than.

Q2 Give the meaning of the word 'bridges' as used in the poem.

SOLUTION

In the poem, 'the bow that bridges heaven' means the rainbow spans or connects the sky like a bridge.

Answer: Bridges (as a verb) means spans or connects two places, like a bridge does.

Q3 Give the meaning of the word 'bow' as used in the poem.

SOLUTION

The poem describes the rainbow as 'the bow that bridges heaven', using 'bow' to mean the curved arc of the rainbow in the sky.

Answer: Bow means a curved arc or arch — here it refers to the rainbow arching across the sky.

Exercise 3.2 — Let us Think A — Reading Comprehension

Q1 Explain the meaning of the word 'bow' used in the poem.

SOLUTION

In the poem, 'the bow that bridges heaven' refers to the rainbow.
The rainbow has a curved, bow-like shape as it arches across the sky.

Answer: In the poem, 'bow' means the rainbow — the curved arc that stretches across the sky like a bow-shape.

Q2 Which bridge does the poet like more and why?

SOLUTION

The poet compares man-made bridges on rivers with the rainbow, which she calls a bridge across heaven.
She says the rainbow is 'prettier far than these', meaning far more beautiful than man-made bridges.
So the poet likes the rainbow (the natural bridge in the sky) more.

Answer: The poet likes the rainbow more. She says it is 'prettier far' than man-made bridges because it stretches from earth to sky and overtops the trees.

Q3 The word 'these' is used for different things in stanzas one and two. What are the things for which 'these' has been used in each stanza?

SOLUTION

In stanza one, the poet mentions boats on rivers and ships on seas, then says clouds are 'prettier far than these' — so 'these' refers to boats and ships.
In stanza two, the poet mentions bridges on rivers, then says the rainbow is 'prettier far than these' — so 'these' refers to the bridges.

Answer: In stanza one, 'these' refers to boats and ships. In stanza two, 'these' refers to the bridges on rivers.

Q4 State whether the following are True or False.
a. Ships sail on the river.
b. Boats sail on the sea.
c. Bridges are built on the river.
d. A road is built from earth to the sky.

SOLUTION

a. The poem says 'Boats sail on the rivers' and 'ships sail on the seas' — ships sail on seas, not rivers.

b. The poem says 'Boats sail on the rivers' — boats sail on rivers, not the sea.
c. The poem says 'There are bridges on the rivers' — this is True.
d. The poem says the rainbow 'builds a road from earth to sky' — this is True.

Answer: a. False b. False c. True d. True

Exercise 3.3 — Let us Think B — Think and Discuss

Q1 What are the ways in which you can cross a river?

SOLUTION

The poem mentions bridges and boats as ways to cross or travel over water.
Common ways to cross a river include walking over a bridge, rowing a boat, swimming, or taking a ferry.

Answer: You can cross a river by walking over a bridge, taking a boat or ferry, or swimming across.

Q2 Have you ever seen a rainbow in real life or in pictures? How did you feel?

SOLUTION

This question asks students to share their own experience.
A sample answer: Yes, I have seen a rainbow after rain. It was beautiful and made me feel happy and amazed to see so many colours in the sky.

Answer: Yes, I have seen a rainbow after rain. Its seven bright colours made me feel happy and amazed.

Q3 If you could walk on a rainbow, where do you think it would take you?

SOLUTION

This is an imaginative question. The poem says the rainbow 'builds a road from earth to sky', so walking on it would take you up into the sky.
A sample answer: I think it would take me high up into the clouds, where I could look down at the earth below.

Answer: I think it would take me up into the sky, high above the clouds, just as the poem says the rainbow builds a road from earth to sky.

Exercise 3.4 — Let us Write B — Compound Words

Q1 rain + bow = ?

SOLUTION

Given in the book as an example.

Answer: rainbow

Q2 tea + cup = ?

SOLUTION

tea + cup combines to form a compound word for a small cup used to drink tea.

Answer: teacup

Q3 wrist + ___ = ? (Complete the compound word.)

SOLUTION

wrist + watch = wristwatch (a watch worn on the wrist).

Answer: wrist + watch = wristwatch

Q4 arm + ___ = ? (Complete the compound word.)

SOLUTION

arm + chair = armchair (a chair with supports for the arms).

Answer: arm + chair = armchair

Q5 earth + ___ = earthworm (What is the friend word?)

SOLUTION

earth + worm = earthworm. The friend word is 'worm'.

Answer: worm

Q6 ___ + ___ = sunflower (What words make this compound word?)

SOLUTION

sun + flower = sunflower.

Answer: sun + flower = sunflower

Q7 table + cloth = ?

SOLUTION

table + cloth = tablecloth (a cloth used to cover a table).

Answer: tablecloth

Q8 note + ___ = notebook (What is the friend word?)

SOLUTION

note + book = notebook. The friend word is 'book'.

Answer: book

Q9 ___ + ___ = earring (What words make this compound word?)

SOLUTION

ear + ring = earring.

Answer: ear + ring = earring

Q10 tooth + ___ = ? (Complete the compound word.)

SOLUTION

tooth + brush = toothbrush (a brush used to clean teeth).

Answer: tooth + brush = toothbrush

Exercise 3.5 — Let us Write D.1 — Opposites beginning with 'S'

Q1 Write the opposite of the following words. All answers must begin with 'S'.

a. large
b. weak
c. fast
d. rough
e. dull
f. curved
g. finish
h. addition
i. complicated
j. mild
k. blunt

SOLUTION

a. large × small (given as example)
b. weak × strong
c. fast × slow
d. rough × smooth
e. dull × shiny (or sharp)
f. curved × straight
g. finish × start
h. addition × subtraction
i. complicated × simple
j. mild × strong (or spicy / severe — 'strong' or 'severe' begins with 's')
k. blunt × sharp

Answer: a. small b. strong c. slow d. smooth e. shiny f. straight g. start h. subtraction i. simple j. strong k. sharp