

Literature

Ch- 8 Swift Things are beautiful

Hard words:

1. swift
2. sure
3. lightning
4. meteors
5. quiet
6. beautiful
7. crumbles
8. swallows
9. veined
10. withered
11. ember
12. pause
13. curves

Word Meanings:

1. swift – fast, quick
2. swallows – small, fast flying birds, with pointed wings and a double-pointed tail
3. bright-veined – 'veined' means something which has a pattern like the veins on our hands.

4. meteors – rocks from space that burn brightly as they pass through the Earth's atmosphere.
5. strong-withered – fast and fit
6. sure – confident
7. ember – a piece of wood or coal in a fire, that continues to glow and burn slowly after flames are gone.

Make Sentences:

1. **sure** – I am sure you will win the race.
2. **beautiful** – There are many beautiful things in the world.
3. **meteor** – A large meteor streaked across the sky.

Fill in the blanks:

1. According to the poet both swift and slow things are beautiful.
2. The poet wants to highlight that beauty is everywhere in the world.
3. The lightning that falls has a bright, shiny patterns like veins.
4. The poet says that slow things should be observed carefully so that we can see beauty in them.

Answer the questions:

Q.1. List all the things in the poem that the poet says are fast. Can you name five more swift things?

Ans.1. According to the poet, the fast things are – swallows, deer, lightning, rivers, meteors, wind in the wheat, a fast horse and a runner's feet.

Some more swift things apart from this poem are – trains, planes, rockets, sparks and cheetah.

Q.2. Now, list all the things in the poem that the poet says are slow. Can you name five more slow things?

Ans.2. According to the poet, the slow things are the closing of day, the pause of the wave, the crumbling ember, the opening flower, the slow-moving ox.

Some more slow things are tortoise, snail, the hour hand of a clock, a feather in the breeze, a crawling caterpillar.

Q.3. Can you rank all the swift things mentioned in the poem, in descending order?

Ans.3. Ranking of swift things in the poem –

- a) lightning
- b) meteors
- c) deer
- d) a fast horse
- e) swallows
- f) a runner's feet
- g) rivers
- h) wind in the wheat

Q.4. In the first stanza, the poet says swift things are beautiful. But in the second stanza, the poet says slow things are beautiful. Why? Explain your answer.

Ans.4. The poet wants to highlight that beauty is everywhere in the world, in things which are swift and also in those things which

are slow. The fast things attract us by their speed, but they move so fast that we miss them if we don't pay attention, because they move.

On the other hand, the beauty in slow things has to be observed attentively over time, otherwise we cannot understand it. The things around us are beautiful, if we look closely.