

Poem No.

1

The Rain

(W. H. Davies)

I hear leaves drinking rain;
I hear rich leaves on top
Giving the poor beneath
Drop after drop;
'Tis a sweet noise to hear
These green leaves drinking near.

And when the Sun comes out,
After this rain shall stop,
A wondrous light will fill
Each dark, round drop;
I hope the Sun shines bright;
It will be a lovely sight.

About the Poet

W.H. Davies is an English poet who was born in 1871 at Wales and died in 1940. He left school at a young age, and lived for a number of years as a peddler and a beggar in USA and England. His first attempt of poetry '*The Soul's Destroyer*' (1905) was printed at his own expense. It won the attention of G.B. Shaw. Davies was a prolific poet; his favourite themes were nature and the hardships of the poor.

Theme

The poem is a musical display of rain, a great phenomenon of nature. It has a symbolic meaning also. The leaves on the upper level get the rain drops first and quench their thirst. Afterwards they pass on the drops to the leaves at the level beneath. These lines may offer a metaphor as well; the rich at the upper level get a golden chance first and whatever remains trickle down to the people at the level beneath. However, the scene of the sunshine afterwards, is lovely, and a source of pleasure to everyone of us.

Paraphrase

The poet says that he hears the leaves which are full of rain. He says that the rich leaves on top are full of water. The sprinkling of water which falls drop by drop on the leaves below creates a music which is sweet to hear.

When the sun appears again after the rain stops, the wonderful light sparkles each drop. In the end, the poet wishes that the sun shines in full brightness and makes the scene lovely.

EXERCISES

1. Choose the correct answer.

- i. Who was drinking rain?

a) a man	b) a bird
c) the leaves	d) a tree
- ii. What was making the noise sweet?
 - a) a guitar
 - b) a singer
 - c) drops of rain
 - d) drops of rain falling on leaves
- iii. When did the sun come out?
 - a) in the morning
 - b) in the noon
 - c) in the clouds
 - d) when the rain would stop
- iv. The round drops are brightened by

a) sunshine.	b) colour.
c) moonlight.	d) starlight.

2. Mark the statements true or false.

- i. The poet hears leaves drinking rain.
- ii. The rain drops make the leaves rich.
- iii. The green leaves drinking water create a noise.
- iv. The sunshine darkens the round drops of rain.
- v. The sunshine, after the rain, makes the scene lovely.

3. Add two more rhyming words in each line.

- i. leave, _____, _____
- ii. drop, _____, _____
- iii. rain, _____, _____

4. Write a critical appreciation of the poem.

5. How can a rainy day be enjoyed?

6. Explain the first stanza with reference to context.