



12

INDIAN WEAVERS

Have you noticed that people wear clothes of varied colours on different occasions? These variations in colours also indicate the diversity in cultures and religious communities. For example, Hindu brides in North India wear red clothes; whereas, in Kerala they wear white clothes. Christian brides also wear white clothes. Let us now read a poem by Sarojini Naidu.



OBJECTIVES

After completing this lesson you will be able to

- express your feelings and emotions effectively, and
- recognise and value diversity in cultures.
- enjoy the rhythm of the poem;
- discover the special use of language in poetry;
- use comparisons for effective writing;
- identify the use of words to create visual images;



LET US DO 12.1

Talk to people of different communities and find out the colours of the clothes that are commonly worn or gifted in the given situations:



Notes

Common colour of clothes for the following persons	Name of my Community	Name of another Community
For a new born baby		
Worn by a bride		
Of family members when someone in the family dies		

Don't you find it interesting that all of us wear different colours for different occasions?



12.1 LET US READ THE TEXT

Weavers, weaving at break of day,
Why do you weave a garment so gay?
Blue as the wing of halcyon wild
We weave the robes of a new-born child.

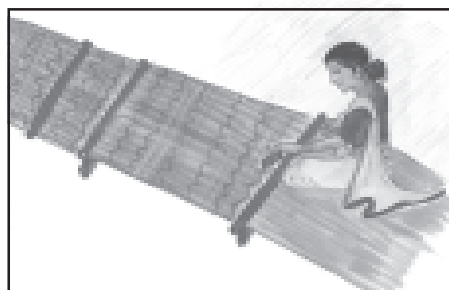


Fig. 12.1

Weavers, weaving at fall of night,
Why do you weave a garment so bright?
Like the plumes of a peacock, purple and green
We weave the marriage veils of a queen

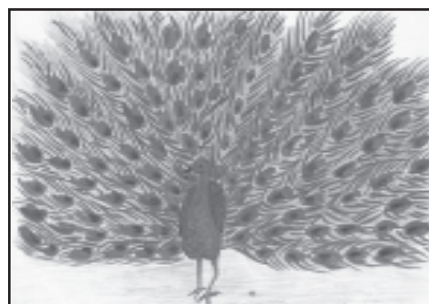


Fig. 12.2

Weavers, weaving solemn and still
What do you weave in the moonlight chill?
White as a feather and white as a cloud
We weave a dead man's funeral shroud.
– Sarojini Naidu

Robes – (here) clothes
“Halcyon” - a bird in Greek legend, generally associated with the kingfisher

Plumes-feathers

Veil- covering for face, especially worn by women

Solemn – serious
Chill- unpleasant coldness

12.2 LET US UNDERSTAND THE TEXT

12.2.1 PART 1 (Stanza 1)

Weavers, weaving at break of day a new-born child.

Have you ever noticed the colours we choose for a new born baby's clothes? Why do you think we choose these colours? In the first stanza the poet, Sarojini Naidu describes weavers



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weaving cloth in the early morning. She asks the weavers why are they weaving a cloth of a particular colour. They say that the cloth that they are weaving is the colour of a halcyon's wings. It is a beautiful, blue because it will be used for making the clothes of a newly born child.



INTEXT QUESTIONS 12.1

Answer the following questions.

1. Complete the following sentences:

The weavers are weaving the cloth for _____. They are compared to _____ because of the similarity of colour i.e. blue.

2. 'Gay' in line 2 means 'bright'. Which mood of the weavers does it indicate? Tick the right answer:
 - a. of cheerfulness
 - b. of frustration
 - c. of sadness
3. What is the similarity between morning time of the day and the birth of a child?



LET US DO 12.2

Read the poem to your friend and enjoy its rhythm.

Rhythm in writing is like the beat in music. Do you know that in poetry, rhythm implies that certain words are produced more forcefully than the others? Some words may also be held for a longer duration. Rhythm is also created by repeating words or phrases, sometimes by repeating whole lines and sentences.

Listen to the poem again.

- 1) Note down the words and phrases repeated.
- 2) In the poem there is one voice asking a question and the other answering it. Listen to it once again. Whose voices are these?

12.2.2 PART 2 (Stanza II)

Weavers, weaving at fall of night veils of a queen.



In this stanza the poet asks the weavers why they are weaving a cloth late in the evening. She asks why it is so bright and colourful. The weavers tell her that the cloth is brightly and richly coloured like the feathers of a peacock because they are weaving it for a queen. The queen will use this cloth to make her marriage veil.



INTEXT QUESTIONS 12.2

Answer the following questions.

1. What are the weavers weaving?
2. What time of the day is it?
3. We wear colours that reflect our mood. Give two examples.

12.2.3 PART 3 (Stanza III)

Weavers, weaving solemn and still man's funeral shroud.

You must have noticed people wearing white clothes to visit a friend who has lost a loved one. Why do we not wear bright clothes on such occasions? In the above stanza the poet asks the weavers what they are weaving late in the night. The weavers reply that they are weaving a thin white cloth to cover a dead body.



INTEXT QUESTIONS 12.3

Answer the following questions.

1. What time is indicated through the phrase 'moonlight chill'?
3. What is the similarity between death and cold night?
4. 'Chill' here means 'unpleasant cold'. Which mood of the weavers does it indicate? Tick the right answer:
 - a. of disappointment
 - b. of frustration
 - c. of sadness

12.3 APPRECIATION

1. Do you know that a **Simile** is a literary device? It is used to show a comparison between two different things because of some similarity between them. This comparison



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is indicated by the words, 'as' or 'like'

A) Find the simile in stanza 2 and complete the statement:

The _____ is compared to _____ both are bright and colourful.

B) Is there any similarity between the following pairs? Write complete phrases indicating similes.

a) life and sea

b) rain and music

For example: After getting a good percentage in NIOS secondary exam, Aziza's aspirations soared like a bird in the sky.

2. Write the objects of comparisons for the following:

a) as cold as _____

b) as hot at _____

c) as deep as _____

3. Rhythm in writing is like the beat in music. In poetry, rhythm implies that certain words are produced more forcefully than the others and may be held for a longer duration. Rhythm is also created by repeating words or phrases, sometimes by repeating whole lines and sentences.

Ask a friend to read the poem aloud to you and enjoy its rhythm. Note down the words and phrases repeated.

4. The poem has strong imagery. In other words, when we listen to it or read it, we are able to create a clear picture in our minds like a picture of an infant wearing blue clothes.

Listen to the poem again and write down the images created in your mind. The underlined sentences above is one example of an image.



LET US LEARN NEW WORDS 12.1

A. Word Building

Given below are the names of different professions. Some of these are formed by adding the suffix '-er' or '-or' to verbs or nouns.

For example: weave (verb) + er = weaver

direct (verb) + or = director

photograph (noun) + er = photographer



Put the following words in two lists. Refer to a dictionary if you are not sure teacher, grocer, preacher, carpenter, engineer, driver, tailor, manager, potter, painter, actor, doctor, author

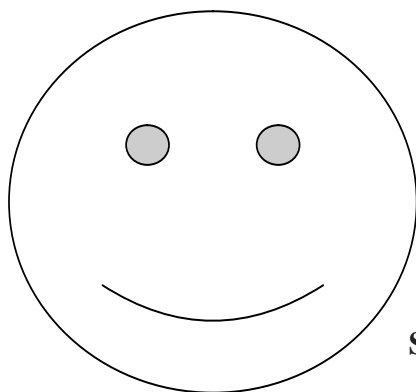
Words formed by adding suffix	Root words

B. Words Expressing Happy and Sad Feelings

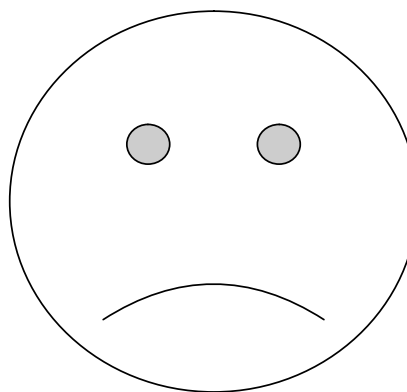
Given below are the words that express happy and sad feelings. Put the words expressing happy feelings in the happy face and the words expressing sad feelings in the sad face. Refer to a dictionary, if you do not know the meaning of any of these words.

sad, glad, delighted, depressed, excited, gloomy, dejected, joyous, downcast, cheerful, annoyed, miserable, jubilant, thrilled.

HAPPY



SAD



**DO YOU KNOW?**

Sarojini Naidu (February 13, 1879 – March 2, 1949) was a child prodigy, a freedom fighter, and a poet. Naidu was the first Indian woman to become the President of the Indian National Congress, the first woman to become the Governor. She was famously known as Bharatiya Kokila (The Nightingale of India).

She was very active in the Indian Independence Movement and encouraged women to participate in political life.

Her poetry, originally published, in three volumes - *The Golden Threshold* (1905), *The Bird of Time: Songs of Life, Death & the Spring* (1912), and *The Broken Wing* (1915): *Songs of Love, Death and the Spring*. Two other volumes - *The Sceptred Flute: Songs of India* and *The Feather of the Dawn* - were published after her death

**LET US DO 12.3**

Colours are used as symbols not only to indicate different moods but also to indicate ideas. Match the colours with what they stand for. One colour may symbolize more than one thing.

Colours

Red
white
black

moods/symbols of

purity
death
danger
love

**DO YOU KNOW?**

All of us experience happy and sad moments in life. When we are happy, we share our happiness with everyone. What can we do when we are sad or depressed? How do we cope with our negative emotions? Here are some suggestions given by researchers. These suggestions include some self-help techniques.

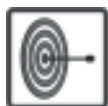
- Be positive. Avoid being critical of yourself.
- Take interest in others.
- Involve yourself in some physical activity like walking, running, cycling, dancing etc.
- Listen to your favourite music or watch your favourite TV programme.
- Pursue a hobby like painting, gardening, stitching etc.
- Involve yourself in some constructive activity.

**LET US DO 12.4**

Weaving is a central activity in the poem. Is it because life is a weave of events? Weaving was an important activity in the poet's time. Gandhiji also advocated the use of Charakha in every household.

Do you know why? What was the Charakha a symbol of?

Try to find the answer and write five lines about what the charakha is a symbol of? Why did Gandhiji advocate it?

**WHAT YOU HAVE LEARNT**

In this poem, you read about the different stages of life that bring joys and sorrows. You also learnt ways of sharing happiness and excitement and ways with negative feelings and emotions.

**TERMINAL QUESTIONS**

1. In this poem, the poet is describing the three stages of life. She relates them to dresses and their colours. She also compares the changes in life to the changes in a day. Complete the blanks on the basis of your understanding of the poem.

A) _____ Daybreak

Stage of life _____  Colour of cloth _____

B) _____ Colour of cloth - purple & green

Time of day _____  Stage of life _____



Notes

C)

Midnight



Stage of life _____ Colour of cloth _____

2. The words/phrases that suggest different moods in the poem:

funeral, marriage veil, shroud, break of day, purple and green, white, garment
gay, dead man, solemn and still, bright, plumes of a peacock

Put these expressions in two columns:

- a) Words/expressions conveying joy
- b) Words/expressions conveying sorrow

3. The poem has strong imagery. In other words, when we listen to it or read it, we are able to create a clear picture in our mind like an image of infant wearing blue clothes. Listen to the poem again and write down the images created in your mind. The underlined sentence above is one example of an image.

4. Complete the following sentences using the words given below. Do you recognize the similes used?

whistle, lightning, rain

- a. The chirping of the birds sounded as shrill as a _____.
- b. The drumming of the _____ drops on the roof tops was like music.



ANSWERS

LET US DO 12.2

1) Words/phrases repeated

Weavers, weaving.....

Why do you weave

We weave

2) The voice of the poet asking questions and the voice of the weavers answering the poet.

**12.2.1 PART 1****INTEXT QUESTION 12.1**

- I. 1. (1) an infant's \ a baby's garments; the wings of the halcyon bird
2. (a) of cheerfulness
3. Morning is the beginning of the day; the birth of a child is the beginning of life.

12.2.2 PART 2**INTEXT QUESTION 12.2**

- I. 1. The marriage veil of a queen
2. Beginning of night;
3. different interpretations are possible – marriages take place at night or **the** day is over **just** as **the** innocence of childhood is over

12.2.3 PART 3**INTEXT QUESTION 12.3**

- I. 1. midnight
2. Possible interpretations:
Death brings sadness; cold night is unpleasant
Death is the end of life just as night is the end of day
3. (c) of sadness

12.3 APPRECIATION

1. (A) Similies in lines-

‘Like the plumes of a peacock, purple and green
we weave the marriage veils of a queen.’

the marriage veil of a queen, the plumes of peacock

(B) a) chirping of a bird as shrill/musical as a whistle.

b) life as deep as sea

c) rain as rhythmic as music

2. Any innovative comparison that shows similarity

A few possible comparisons:

a) As cold as ice/cucumber



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b) As hot as chillies/a desert

c) As deep as an ocean

3. Words/phrases repeated

Weavers, weaving.....

Why do you weave

We weave

4. - weavers weaving at their looms

- a bird with blue feathers

- a peacock dancing/spreading its plumes

- a queen with her face covered with a veil

- a dead body covered with a white cloth

B) The words expressing feeling with their explanations:

Words expressing happy feelings:

glad happy and pleased about something.

delighted very happy, especially because something good has happened.

excited very happy and enthusiastic because something good is going to happen, especially when this makes you unable to relax.

joyous causing happy feelings

cheerful behaving in a happy friendly way.

jubilant extremely happy because something good has happened

thrilled very pleased and excited

Words expressing sad feelings:

sad feeling unhappy, especially because something bad has happened.

depressed if you are depressed, you feel very unhappy because of a difficult or unpleasant situation that you feel you cannot change.

gloomy feeling sad and without hope.

dejected someone who is dejected has lost all their hope or enthusiasm, especially because they have failed at something.

downcast sad or upset



miserable extremely unhappy or uncomfortable

annoyed feeling slightly angry or impatient: feeling slightly angry or impatient.

LET US LEARN NEW WORDS 12.1

A. Words with suffix: Teacher, preacher, engineer, driver, manager, potter, painter, actor

Root words: carpenter, tailor, grocer, author, doctor.

TERMINAL QUESTIONS

1. (A) birth/childhood, blue
(B) evening, youth/arriage
(C) death, white
2. Words/expressions conveying joy - marriage veil, break of day, purple and green, garment gay, bright, plumes of a peacock

Words/expressions conveying sorrow - funeral, shroud, white, dead man, solemn and still.

3. - weavers weaving at their looms
- a bird with blue feathers
- a peacock dancing/spreading its plumes
- a queen with her face covered with a veil
- a dead body covered with a white cloth

Accept all responses including identification of phrases containing imagery or any innovative comparison that shows similarity.

4. a. whistle
b. rain
c. lightning