

## Reading Comprehension 5- Poem

### Grade 5

Read the poem carefully and answer the questions that follow.

#### **The Flower School**

*By Rabindranath Tagore*

When storm clouds rumble in the sky and June showers come down,  
The moist east wind comes marching over the heath to blow its bagpipes among the bamboos.  
Then crowds of flowers come out of a sudden, from nobody knows where,  
and dance upon the grass in wild glee.

Mother, I really think the flowers go to school underground.  
They do their lessons with doors shut,  
and if they want to come out to play before it is time,  
their master makes them stand in a corner.

When the rain comes they have their holidays.  
Branches clash together in the forest,  
and the leaves rustle in the wild wind,  
the thunder-clouds clap their giant hands  
and the flower children rush out in dresses of pink and yellow and white.

Do you know, mother, their home is in the sky, where the stars are.  
Haven't you seen how eager they are to get there?  
Don't you know why they are in such a hurry?  
Of course, I can guess to whom they raise their arms; they have their mother as I have my own.

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#### **Comprehension Questions**

1. When do the flowers come out, according to the poem?
2. What instrument is the east wind compared to in the poem?
3. Where does the child think the flowers go to school?

4. What happens to flowers that try to come out before it is time?
5. When do the flowers have their holidays?
6. What colors are mentioned for the flowers' dresses?
7. Where does the child think the flowers' home is?
8. Who does the child think the flowers are raising their arms to?
9. How would you describe the child's imagination in this poem?
10. What comparison does the child make between the flowers and himself/herself at the end of the poem?

### **Vocabulary Questions**

11. What does "rumble" mean in the first line of the poem?
12. Find a word in the poem that means "damp" or "slightly wet."
13. What does "glee" mean in the first stanza?
14. What does "rustle" mean in the third stanza?
15. The poem uses the word "heath." What is a heath?

### **Grammar Questions**

16. Identify a metaphor from the poem.
17. Find an example of personification in the poem.
18. In the line "the thunder-clouds clap their giant hands," what figure of speech is used?
19. In the phrase "in dresses of pink and yellow and white," what part of speech is "pink"?
20. The poem has a conversational tone. Who is the child speaking to throughout the poem?

## Answer Key

### Comprehension Answers

1. The flowers come out when storm clouds rumble in the sky and June showers come down.
2. The east wind is compared to bagpipes.
3. The child thinks the flowers go to school underground.
4. Their master makes them stand in a corner.
5. The flowers have their holidays when the rain comes.
6. Pink, yellow, and white are the colors mentioned.
7. The child thinks the flowers' home is in the sky, where the stars are.
8. The child thinks the flowers are raising their arms to their mother.
9. The child has a rich, creative imagination that creates a complete world for the flowers with school, lessons, punishment, and family.
10. The child compares the flowers having a mother to himself/herself having a mother.

### Vocabulary Answers

11. "Rumble" means to make a deep, heavy, continuous sound.
12. "Moist" is a word that means damp or slightly wet.
13. "Glee" means great delight or joy; happiness.
14. "Rustle" means to make a soft, gentle sound, like leaves moving against each other.
15. A "heath" is an area of open land covered with small shrubs and plants.

### Grammar Answers

16. A metaphor in the poem is "the flowers go to school underground."
17. Personification examples include flowers "dancing," "doing lessons," or "rushing out in dresses."
18. The line "the thunder-clouds clap their giant hands" uses personification.
19. In this phrase, "pink" functions as an adjective.

20.The child is speaking to his/her mother (addressed as "Mother" in the poem).

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