



MIIM Grammar School (G-11 Campus)

Date: 30th April, 2021

Class: 7th

Subject: English

Unit: 2

Topic: The Field Mouse (poem)

Activity: Exercise page#49+50

words	meanings
meadow	field
hedge	fence
quivering	shaking
agony	intense pain
rumour	doubtful truth

Words	Sentences
Quivering	The child was quivering in her arms.
Hedge	The hedges were grey with dust.
Devastated	The plague devastated entire cities.
Agony	The injured mouse was in agony.
Rumour	His reputation was ruined by false rumour.

Summary of the poem:

The poem is inspired by the 1990 Bosnian crisis, where the life of men has destructed nature. The title of the poem refers to a field mouse which receives a fatal injury during the Spring hay cutting. So, here the poet compares the mouse to the children in the war throughout the poem. There are echoes of conflict pain and death as references to the Bosnian war. So, the poet conveyed the deep message of men destructive nature through the mouse in the poem.

In the first stanza, the poet has heard on the radio 'terrible news' about the war in which Europeans are killing each other. As she and her family get on with their work in the field, the suffering of those involved in the war is on her mind. The farmer in the neighbouring field is spreading lime on to his field.

In the second stanza, the poet's little boy brings to her a badly injured mouse which he has found in the cut grass. The children kneel down and stare at its little body. So, here the poet compares the mouse with the children in the war. In the poem, the farmer killed the mouse with his tractor blade as children were killed by the guns in the war. Here the farmer is responsible for killing the mouse and in the war human beings are responsible for killing the innocent children.

In the final stanza, the hay cutting is finished, and it is evening, and finally night. The poet cannot stop thinking about the war reports she had heard on the radio in the morning, and she cannot bear to read newspaper. Her sleep that night disturbed by nightmares where her

own children dancing in the grass become Bosnian children, thin-boned and vulnerable to the gun fire overhead, and her neighbour becomes an enemy throwing stones at her property.