



Unseen Poetry

WORKSHEET

On the Grasshopper and Cricket

John Keats

The Poetry of earth is never dead:
When all the birds are faint with the hot sun,
And hide in cooling trees, a voice will run
From hedge to hedge about the new-mown mead;
That is the Grasshopper's—he takes the lead
In summer luxury,—he has never done
With his delights; for when tired out with fun
He rests at ease beneath some pleasant weed.

The poetry of earth is ceasing never:
On a lone winter evening, when the frost
Has wrought a silence, from the stove there shrills
The Cricket's song, in warmth increasing ever,
And seems to one in drowsiness half lost,
The Grasshopper's among some grassy hills.



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Exam Question

What is the poet saying about the seasons? Explain how he presents these ideas.

HELP BOX



What is the poem about?

What is the mood of the poem?

What do you think the poet means by “when the fact/Has wrought a silence”?

Sonnets like this are normally about love so, why do you think the poet has chosen this form?

Why have “Grasshopper” and “Cricket” been given capital letters?

What effect does the rhythm have?

The poet sometimes writes words in an unusual order, find an example and explain this effect

What do you think the grasshopper represents?