

Unit: Six / Lesson: 6

From a Railway Carriage

Robert Louis Stevenson

Faster than fairies, faster than witches,
 Bridges and houses, hedges and ditches;
 And charging along like troops in a battle
 All through the meadows the horses and cattle:
 All of the sights of the hill and the plain
 Fly as thick as driving rain:
 And ever again, in the wink of an eye,
 Painted stations whistle by.
 Here is a child who clammers and scrambles,
 All by himself and gathering brambles;
 Here is a tramp who stands and gazes;
 And here is the green for stringing daisies!
 Here is a cart runaway in the road
 Lumping along with man and load;
 And here is a mill, and there is a river:
 Each a glimpse and gone forever!

একটি রেলগাড়ি থেকে

পরী থেকে দ্রুত, যাদুকরের চেয়েও দ্রুত,
 ব্রিজ আর বাড়ি, ঝোপঝাড় আর নালা;
 এবং যুদ্ধের সৈন্যদের মতো দ্রুত চলে যাচ্ছে
 ঘাসের মাঠে ঘোড়া এবং গবাদি পশুর পাল;
 পাহাড় আর সমতল জমির সমস্ত দৃশ্য
 বৃষ্টির মতো দ্রুত চলে যায়;
 এবং বার বার, এক ঝপকানে,
 পেইন্ট করা স্টেশনগুলো ছুটে চলে।
 এখানে একটি শিশু আছে, যে চড়ে ওঠে আর টালমাটাল হয়,
 এবং একা একা বনসী শাখা কুড়াচ্ছে;
 এখানে একটি বেওয়ারিশ ব্যক্তি দাঁড়িয়ে তাকিয়ে আছে;
 এবং এখানে দেইজি ফুলের শাঁখা গাঁথার জন্য সবুজ ঘাস!
 এখানে একটি কার্ট রাস্তায় runaway হচ্ছে,
 মানুষ এবং মাল নিয়ে ধীরে ধীরে চলাচল করছে;
 এবং এখানে একটি ময়দান, এবং সেখানে একটি নদী:
 প্রত্যেকটা দৃশ্য দেখা গেল আর চিরদিনের জন্য চলে গেল।

Paraphrase

In the poem "From a Railway Carriage", the poet describes the experience of traveling in a fast-moving train. As the train speeds along, everything outside — such as bridges, houses, fields, horses, and cattle — passes by so quickly that it's like they are flying. The poet compares it to soldiers rushing in a battle. The scenery, including stations and people, flashes by in an instant. The poet also describes seeing a child picking flowers, a wanderer gazing at the view, and a cart slowly moving on the road. The images come and go so fast that they are almost forgotten immediately. The poem shows the speed and fleeting nature of life from a train window.

কবিতাটিতে কবি রেলগাড়ির দ্রুত গতিতে চলার অভিজ্ঞতা বর্ণনা করেছেন। যখন ট্রেন দ্রুত চলে, বাইরের সব কিছু—যেমন ব্রিজ, বাড়ি, মাঠ, ঘোড়া এবং গবাদি পশু—এত দ্রুত চলে যায় যে সেগুলো উড়ে যাওয়ার মতো মনে হয়। কবি এটিকে যুদ্ধের সৈন্যদের দ্রুত চলার সাথে তুলনা করেছেন। দৃশ্যগুলো, যেমন স্টেশন এবং মানুষ, এক ঝলকেই চলে যায়। কবি একটি শিশু দেখতে পান যে একা একা ফুল কুড়াচ্ছে, একজন ভিক্ষুক দাঁড়িয়ে আছে, এবং একটি কার্ট ধীরে ধীরে চলতে থাকে। সব দৃশ্য এত দ্রুত চলে যায় যে সেগুলো মুহূর্তেই ভুলে যাওয়া যায়। কবিতাটি রেলগাড়ির জানালা থেকে বাইরের দৃশ্যের দ্রুত পরিবর্তন এবং সময়ের অনাবিল অনুভূতিকে ফুটিয়ে তোলে।

Question & Answer**1. Who is the poet of the poem "From a Railway Carriage"?**

The poet of the poem is **Robert Louis Stevenson**, a famous Scottish writer known for his works like *Treasure Island* and *A Child's Garden of Verse*.

2. What is moving faster than fairies and witches in the poem?

In the poem, the **train** is moving faster than fairies and witches. The poet uses this comparison to emphasize the incredible speed of the train.

3. What kinds of things does the poet see as the train moves?

As the train moves, the poet sees various things, including **bridges, houses, hedges, ditches**, and the **meadows** filled with **horses** and **cattle**. He also sees **children, tramps**, and a **cart** moving along the road.

4. What comparison does the poet make about the speed of the train?

The poet compares the speed of the train to **troops in a battle**, charging forward quickly. This shows how fast the train is moving, almost as if it's in a rush like soldiers during a battle.

5. What animals does the poet mention in the poem?

The poet mentions **horses** and **cattle** as he describes the animals moving in the meadows. He also briefly refers to **squirrels** hiding their nuts in the grass.

6. What happens to the sights the poet sees?

The sights the poet sees are **fleeting and pass by quickly**, almost as fast as the **driving rain**. Everything is seen in a flash and disappears forever, as the train moves rapidly.

7. How does the poet describe the passing of the painted stations?

The poet describes the painted stations as "**whistling by**", which means they pass by so quickly that you hardly notice them. The stations appear and disappear in the blink of an eye.

8. What is the child doing in the poem?

The child is **climbing and scrambling**, moving around by himself, and **gathering brambles** (wild plants with thorns). The child seems to be engaged in a small, independent activity in the scenery.

9. What is the tramp doing in the poem?

The tramp is **standing and gazing**, looking at the passing scenery as the train moves by. He is observing the world around him while the train rushes past.

10. What is the child gathering in the poem?

The child is **gathering brambles**, which are wild plants with thorns. This is part of his activity as he explores the natural world around him.

11. What is the green used for in the poem?

The **green** (likely grass or fields) is used **for stringing daisies**. This refers to a common childhood activity where children pick daisies and thread them together to make chains.

12. What happens to the cart in the poem?

The **cart** is described as **runaway** on the road, meaning it is moving by itself, possibly because the horse pulling it has stopped or the cart is abandoned. The cart moves along with the **man and load** in it, but it appears to be moving slowly.

13. What does the poet see when passing the mill and river?

As the train passes, the poet sees **a mill and a river**. These are simple, peaceful images of rural life, but they are seen only for a moment as the train moves quickly past them.

14. How does the poet describe the scenes he sees from the train?

The poet describes the scenes as **fleeting glimpses**, seen for only a moment before they disappear forever. The passing images are fast and numerous, almost like a blur of nature and people that are gone as soon as they are seen.

15. What is the poet's message about how quickly time passes in the poem?

The poet's message is that time moves **very quickly**, just like the **train**, and the experiences and sights we encounter in life can pass by in the blink of an eye. This suggests that we should appreciate the moment and take time to enjoy life's fleeting beauty.

16. What is the main theme of the poem?

The main theme of the poem is the **speed of life** and how quickly time passes. The poet uses the imagery of a fast-moving train to show that moments, people, and experiences can come and go in an instant, leaving only fleeting memories behind. The poem also reflects on how we may miss the beauty of the world around us if we don't take the time to slow down and appreciate it.