

ANSWER KEY TO LESSON 24 OF C IS FOR COTTAGE

THE WOODCUTTER'S NIGHT SONG

Before reading the poem, parents may introduce John Clare's biography by asking the following question: *Are poets rich and famous or poor and unknown?* Many poets of the the 19th-century were relatively well-off. They could not be otherwise, as writing poetry was generally not a lucrative profession. The poet William Wordsworth (1770–1850) became independently wealthy from a rich legacy he had inherited from a friend who had died. Other famous poets of the period—Samuel Taylor Coleridge and Robert Southey—belonged to the gentleman class as well. George Gordon Byron had a peerage and is usually referred to as “Lord Byron.” Byron's poet friend Percy Bysshe Shelley, too, had enough wealth to live a life of leisure. Then there was John Clare (1793–1864). Throughout his life, he lived in great poverty. Although he achieved some money and fame from his *Poems Descriptive of Rural Life and Scenery*, he was a child of a common laborer—a farmer in the Midlands of England—and very poor. Unlike Wordsworth, Coleridge, and Byron (all of whom went to Cambridge), and unlike Shelley (who went to Oxford), Clare was self-educated. The poem that the students will read, “The Woodcutter's Night Song,” depicts the nature of a common field that the poor poet would have been very familiar with. Having struggled with mental illness, Clare died in obscurity in an asylum, thinking he was alternately Napoleon and Byron.

READING QUESTIONS A

1. b
2. c
3. a
4. c
5. b
6. a
7. b
8. a
9. b
- 10.a

THE BLIND MEN AND THE ELEPHANT

READING QUESTIONS

1. b
2. a
3. a
4. b

5. c

1. LITERARY WORDS: ALLEGORY AND RHYME SCHEME

To reinforce the students' understanding of allegory, parents may retell the allegorical dreams, stories and parables contained in the Bible, such as the following:

- the dreams of Joseph (Genesis 37:5–11)
- the dreams told to Joseph (Genesis 40; 41:1–40)
- the dreams of Nebuchadnezzar (Daniel 2; Daniel 4:4–37)
- the story that the prophet Nathan tells to David (2 Samuel 12:1–10)
- the parable of the sower (Matthew 13:3–8;18–23)

POETICS EXERCISE

1. abab
2. abbacc
3. abccddaf
4. aabba
5. aaaaa

2. WRITING EXERCISE: EXPOSITORY PARAGRAPH

To prepare for this writing exercise, teachers should first discuss the topic with the students and have them explain orally why it is not good to be opinionated. Students should be encouraged to draw from their own experiences to illustrate their point rather than make up hypothetical situations.

3. PHONICS AND VOCABULARY

PHONICS EXERCISE A

1. b
2. a
3. a
4. b
5. c
6. b
7. c
8. a
9. b
- 10.c

PHONICS EXERCISE B

1. nervous
2. obvious
3. prosperous
4. dangerous
5. jealous
6. perilous
7. serious
8. enormous
9. dexterous
10. marvelous

4. GRAMMAR AND PUNCTUATION: REVIEW

GRAMMAR EXERCISE A

1. conjunction
2. preposition
3. pronoun
4. verb
5. noun
6. verb
7. interjection
8. noun
9. adjective
10. adverb

GRAMMAR EXERCISE B

1. b
2. b
3. c
4. a
5. b
6. c
7. b
8. a
9. b
10. a