

Don't be Afraid of the Dark

Don't be afraid of the dark, little one
The earth must rest when the day is done
The sun may be harsh, but moonlight – never!
And those stars will be shining forever and ever.

Be friends with the Night, there is nothing to fear,
Just let your thoughts travel to friends far and near,
By Day, it must seem that our troubles won't cease,
But at night, late at night, the world is at peace.

Ruskin Bond

cease end

*For detailed instructions, see inside front cover.

Summary

The poem is like a conversation between an adult and a young child. The adult is giving a piece of advice to the child - she/he is asking the child not to be afraid of night. She/He says that there is no reason why the child should be afraid of darkness. She/He further explains why day turns to night and what happens at night. She/He points out the moon and stars to the child and asks her/him to think of pleasant thoughts.

UNDERSTAND THE POEM

A. Tick the correct options.

- 'The day is done' means _____
 - It is evening. _____
 - our work is incomplete. _____
 - one day is over. _____
- During the day, it feels as if difficulties will not _____
 - move. _____
 - decrease. _____
 - end. _____
- 'Let your thoughts travel to friends' means _____ friends.
 - think of _____
 - dream about _____
 - go to _____
- At night, the world is _____
 - completely silent. _____
 - quite calm. _____
 - very tired. _____



B. Answer these questions with reference to the context.

- Don't be afraid of the dark, little one
What is being referred to as 'the dark'?
- The sun may be harsh, but moonlight - never!
How are the sun and the moon different?

C. Answer these questions.

- Who is the speaker in the poem? Who is the listener?
- Why does the speaker ask the listener to think of friends at night?

Think and Answer

D. Work in pairs and answer these questions.

- How do you think the earth rests when it is evening or night?
- Do you think stars shine forever? Why or why not?

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B Reference to the context

1. Night is being referred to as 'the dark'.
2. Sunlight is hot and bright and may be unpleasant whereas moonlight is always soft and cool and therefore very pleasant.

C Answer these questions

1. The speaker is an adult and the listener is a young child.
2. The speaker asks the listener to think of friends at night so that he/she has happy or pleasant thoughts and does not feel afraid.

D Answer these questions

1. People, animals, birds and things slow down, rest or sleep when it is evening or night. Evening/night is quieter than day.
2. Yes, stars shine forever but we cannot see the stars during the day because of the rotation of the earth and because sunlight is closer, stronger and brighter.