POEMS

1 *A Poison Tree* by William Blake

Paraphrase of the Poem

Stanza 1

The persona was angry with his friend. But when he talked it over with his friend, his anger disappeared. Later on, he was angry with his enemy. However, he does not voice it out and the anger grows.

Stanza 2

The persona waters or feeds the anger with fears and tears. But, he covers up his true feelings with pretense and insincere smiles.

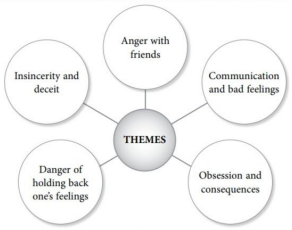
Stanza 3

The anger grows until it is firmly rooted in the persona and as he puts it, it becomes "an apple tree". His enemy knows the tree belongs to the persona.

Stanza 4

Late one dark night, the enemy goes to the persona's garden. He most probably ate the apple from the poison tree because the next morning, the persona finds him lying on the ground beneath the tree.

Themes



Exercise 1

Read the poem, 'A Poison Tree' and complete the sentences appropriately.

1. The persona has a difference of opinion with a _____ but talks it out and the wrath did _____.
2. When the persona has a tiff with a _____, he does not talk it out and the wrath did _____.
3. He feeds the anger with his _____ daily, and morning and night with his _____.
4. He covers up his feelings with _____ and nobody knew how he feels because of his deceitful _____.
5. The anger tree in him grows steadily day and _____ until the tree bears a fruit fresh and _____.
6. My (the persona's) enemy sees the fruit _____ on the anger tree and knows it is not his but _____.
7. That night when the darkness blocked the electric _____, the enemy _____ into the persona's garden.
8. The next morning, the persona could _____ to his happiness his enemy lying outstretched on the ground beneath the _____.

Exercise 2

Read the poem, 'A Poison Tree' and complete the word puzzle below with words from the poem. The letters in the boxes in bold make up two words. Write the words in the space provided. Use the clues to help you.

1.		**A**										
2.			**S**									
3.		**B**										
4.	**O**											
5.		**S**										
6.		**M**										
7.	**W**											
8.		**G**										
9.			**V**									
10.	**W**											

Clues

1. A type of fruit
2. Opposite of hard
3. Clear and shiny
4. Reach out or spread out
5. Past tense of steal
6. To belong to oneself
7. A deep anger
8. A place to grow flowering plants
9. Covered with a thin cloth
10. Cunning tricks

The words are: _____ _____

2 *What Has Happened to Lulu?* by Charles Causley

Paraphrase of the Poem

Stanza 1

The persona questions about the whereabouts of Lulu as her bed is empty except for an old rag-doll and a shoe.

Stanza 2

The window in the room is open and the curtain is flapping while on the dusty shelf the money-box is missing. There is only the mark of a circle where the money-box used to be.

Stanza 3

The persona wants to know why his mother is shaking her head and shedding tears. She has crumpled up a note and says it is of no importance.

Stanza 4

The persona heard people talking and the roar of a car engine late at night but is told it was all part of a dream.

Stanza 5

The persona also heard somebody cry either in pain or anger but is told it was a gust of rain.

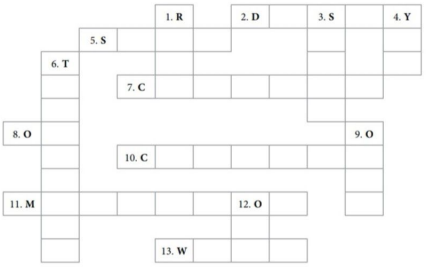
Stanza 6

The persona wants to know why his mother is wandering about in a daze not knowing what to do. He is confused about the disappearance of Lulu.

Exercise 1

Read the poem, 'What Has Happened to Lulu?', and tick (✓) the statements that are true.

1. The persona wants to know the whereabouts of his sister, Lulu. ( )
2. He notices an old rag doll and a shoe in Lulu's room. ( )
3. The window is wide open and Lulu is climbing out of it. ( )
4. There are dollar notes and coins on the clean shelf. ( )
5. The persona's mother turns her head away with tears in her eyes. ( )
6. Lulu has left a note and it is crumpled and burning on the fire. ( )
7. The persona dreams of going for a car ride with Lulu. ( )
8. The persona is sure he heard Lulu and mother quarrelling in the night. ( )
9. It was raining the night before. ( )
10. The persona is curious as to why his mother is wandering about helplessly. ( )

Exercise 2

Read the poem, 'What Has Happened to Lulu?', and solve the crossword puzzle with the help of the clues given below.