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Question Bank

WBBSE Class 7 English (Blossoms VII)

Lesson 3: We Are Seven

Poem by William Wordsworth

Seen Questions, Grammar Exercises and Writing Practice

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38 questions: 28 textbook questions, 0 school paper questions, 10 additional practice questions

Lesson Summary

"We Are Seven" is a poem by William Wordsworth. The poet meets a little girl of eight years, with thick curly hair, fair eyes, a rustic, woodland air and wild clothes. He asks her how many brothers and sisters she has, and she answers at once, "We are seven." The poet is puzzled, because she is only one child, so he asks her again and again.

The girl counts them all. Two of her brothers live at Conway, and two are gone to sea. A brother and a sister lie in the churchyard, only twelve steps from her cottage, where their graves are green and may be seen. She lives there with her mother, and she often goes to the churchyard. To her, the dead brother and sister are still with the family, so she says again and again, "We are seven." The poem shows a child's simple mind: she does not understand death, and she cannot tell the dead from the living.

Note: the poem in the book is an edited version. Two of the girl's siblings are at Conway, two are gone to sea, and two lie in the churchyard.

Key Points

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Author	William Wordsworth, English poet
Theme	A child's innocence and simple faith; death seen through a child's eyes
Characters	The poet, who questions the girl; the little girl of eight, with thick curly hair and fair eyes
Setting	A churchyard cottage, only twelve steps from the burial ground; Conway; the sea
Grammar topics taught	Rhyming words; homonyms (met-mate, hair-hare, wonder-wander, two-to, there-their); sentence making
Writing topics taught	Sentence making with new words; collecting homonyms and their meanings

Seen Questions

A. From the Textbook (Blossoms VII)

Act 1: Choose the correct answer [textbook exercise]

(a) The little girl whom the poet met was - (i) seven (ii) eight (iii) nine years old.

Answer: **(ii) eight**. The girl is eight years old, though she says, "We are seven."

(b) The girl lost - (i) two brothers (ii) two sisters (iii) a brother and a sister.

Answer: **(iii) a brother and a sister**. Two of her brothers and sisters lie in the churchyard.

(c) The distance between her house and the burial ground was only - (i) twelve steps (ii) ten steps (iii) six steps.

Answer: **(i) twelve steps**. Her cottage is only twelve steps from the churchyard.

Act 2: True or False, give supporting statements [textbook exercise]

(a) The little girl was good-looking.

Answer: **True**. Supporting statement: She had beautiful eyes and thick curly hair - "Her hair was thick with many a curl... her eyes were fair."

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(b) Five of her brothers and sisters were dead.

Answer: **False**. Supporting statement: Only two of her brothers and sisters were dead; the others were alive.

(c) The graves were covered with green grass.

Answer: **True**. Supporting statement: "Their graves are green, they may be seen."

Act 3: Find the word in the poem that rhymes with the given word [textbook exercise]

curl: _____

Answer: curl - **girl**.

head: _____

Answer: head - **said**.

air: _____

Answer: air - **fair**.

clad: _____

Answer: clad - **glad**.

be: _____

Answer: be - **me**.

tell: _____

Answer: tell - **dwell**.

laid: _____

Answer: laid - **maid**.

heaven: _____

Answer: heaven - **seven**.

Act 4: Answer the following questions [textbook exercise]

(a) Pick out the expressions that describe the appearance of the girl.

Answer: "Her hair was thick with many a curl"; "rustic, woodland air"; "wildly clad"; "her eyes were very fair".

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(b) With whom did the girl live?

Answer: The girl lived with her mother, in the cottage by the churchyard.

(c) What does the girl say about her living brothers and sisters?

Answer: She said two of her brothers live at Conway and two are gone to sea.

(d) Why does the girl say, "We are seven"?

Answer: Because she does not understand the meaning of death and cannot tell the dead from the alive. Counting the two dead siblings with the five living ones, she says they are seven.

Act 5: Make sentences with the following words [textbook exercise]

dwell

Answer: dwell - "Bapuji **dwelled** in Gujarat for many years."

clustered

Answer: clustered - "Boys **clustered** in the middle of the ground."

rustic

Answer: rustic - "They were wearing **rustic** costumes for the festival."

grave

Answer: grave - "Peter saw his grandfather's **grave** yesterday."

maid

Answer: maid - "We had a **maid**, who was very hard-working and honest."

Act 6: Make sentences with the following pairs of homonyms [textbook exercise]

met - mate

Answer: "I **met** my old college **mate** at the reunion."

hair - hare

Answer: "The **hair** of the **hare** was sleek and shiny."

wonder - wander

Answer: "I often **wonder** about the mysteries of the universe." "The lost traveller decided to **wander** through the forest."

two - to

Answer: "I have **two** apples in my bag." "I want **to** go to school tomorrow."

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there - their

Answer: "**There** is a beautiful sunset over the horizon." "**Their** house is located in a quiet neighbourhood."

> **Note:** The book also has an unnumbered "Let's work together" task: collect a few words and their homonyms and write down their meanings. It is a classroom collection task, and no set answer is published for it, so no answer is given here.

B. From School Papers

> **Note:** No genuine school-paper Seen material was found for this lesson in this pass. Nothing has been invented for this section.

C. Additional Practice

How old was the little girl in the poem? [Additional]

Answer: The little girl was **eight** years old.

How many brothers and sisters did the girl have in all? **[Additional]**

Answer: The girl had seven brothers and sisters in all, counting herself: five living and two dead. That is why she says, "We are seven."

Where did two of the girl's brothers live? **[Additional]**

Answer: Two of her brothers live at **Conway**.

Where had two of her brothers and sisters gone? **[Additional]**

Answer: Two of her brothers and sisters are gone to **sea**.

Where do the two dead children lie? **[Additional]**

Answer: The two dead children lie in the **churchyard**, only twelve steps from the girl's cottage.

What does "their graves are green" tell us? **[Additional]**

Answer: It tells us that the graves are covered with green grass and can be seen from the cottage.

Why does the poet ask the girl how many brothers and sisters she has? **[Additional]**

Answer: The poet meets a little girl of eight and, struck by her looks and her simple talk, asks her about her family. Her answer, "We are seven", surprises him.

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Give a word from the poem that rhymes with "girl". **[Additional]**

Answer: **curl** rhymes with girl: "Her hair was thick with many a curl."

Use "dwell" in a sentence of your own. **[Additional]**

Answer: "Many birds **dwell** in the old banyan tree." Any correct sentence is acceptable.

What is the main idea of the poem "We Are Seven"? **[Additional]**

Answer: The main idea is a child's simple faith: the little girl cannot understand death, so to her the two dead children are still part of the family, and she counts seven, not five.