BIRLA EDUCATION

WBBSE Class 9 English (Second Language)

Question Bank

Lesson 6: Mild the Mist upon the Hill

by Emily Jane Bronte

Bliss: English Textbook for Class IX
Seen Questions, Grammar and Writing

Lesson Summary

Emily Jane Bronte (1818 to 1848) wrote this short lyric in 1839. It is a quiet evening poem. After a day of rain, the poet looks at the soft mist lying on the hills. The mist is gentle and gives no warning of a storm to come. The day, she says, has already wept its fill and spent all its silent sorrow, as if the rain were the tears of the day itself.

The misty evening carries the poet back in time. She feels she has gone back to the days of her youth and become a child once more, safe beneath her father's sheltering roof and near the old hall door of her childhood home. She watches the cloudy evening fall after the rain, sees blue mists of summer lying like a thick cloth over the mountain chain on the horizon, and feels the damp standing thick on the long green grass.

The damp air is full of dreamy scents that seem to breathe of other years, of a happy past that is gone but still alive in memory. The poem is a gentle picture of nature after rain and a tender memory of childhood, home and days that will not come back.

The Poem

Mild the mist upon the hill,
Telling not of storms to-morrow;
No; the day has wept its fill,

Spent its store of silent sorrow.
Oh, I'm gone back to the days of youth,
I am a child once more;
And 'neath my father's sheltering roof
And near the old hall door,
I watch this cloudy evening fall,
After a day of rain:
Blue mists, sweet mists of summer pall
The horizon's mountain-chain.
The damp stands in the long, green grass
As thick as morning's tears;
And dreamy scents of fragrance pass
That breathe of other years.

Key Points

Point	Detail
Poet	Emily Jane Bronte (1818 to 1848), English poet and novelist, best remembered for her only novel, Wuthering Heights
Form	Short lyric in four four-line stanzas; the poem is known by its first line
Theme	Nostalgia and childhood; home and memory; nature as a trigger that brings the past back
Imagery	Mild mist on the hill; the day weeping its fill; blue mists like a summer pall over the mountain chain; damp standing thick on the long green grass; dreamy scents that breathe of other years
Figures of speech	Personification: the day wept its fill and spent its store of silent sorrow; the mist tells of no storm. Simile: the damp stands as thick as morning's tears. Metaphor: summer pall for the thick mist; morning's tears for dew
Word nest	'neath means beneath; pall means a thick cloud or covering; fragrance means a sweet smell; fill here means to make full
	Simple, complex and compound sentences: identification and conversion

Grammar topics in this lesson	
Writing topics in this lesson	Formal letter writing
Exam place	Seen poem section of the school paper: MCQ, short answer and brief questions

Seen Questions

A. From the Textbook: Comprehension (MCQ)

Exercise 1 **[textbook exercise]** Tick the correct answer.

1. The mist was upon the (a) grass (b) roof (c) hill (d) leaf. **[textbook exercise]**

Answer: (c) hill. The poem opens with the words "Mild the mist upon the hill".

2. The sorrow of the day is described as (a) silent (b) terrible (c) overwhelming (d) little. **[textbook exercise]**

Answer: (a) silent. The day has "spent its store of silent sorrow".

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3. The hall door mentioned in the poem is (a) new (b) large (c) broken (d) old. **[textbook exercise]**

Answer: (d) old. The poet stands "near the old hall door" of her childhood home.

4. The poet watches the cloudy (a) morning (b) evening (c) afternoon (d) night. **[textbook exercise]**

Answer: (b) evening. She says, "I watch this cloudy evening fall".

5. The colour of the mist is (a) grey (b) white (c) yellow (d) blue. **[textbook exercise]**

Answer: (d) blue. The poem speaks of "Blue mists, sweet mists of summer pall".

6. The damp stands on the (a) wall (b) floor (c) bush (d) grass. **[textbook exercise]**

Answer: (d) grass. The poem says, "The damp stands in the long, green grass". The option shortens the line to "grass".

B. From the Textbook: Comprehension (Short Answers)

Exercise 2 **[textbook exercise]** Answer within twenty-five words.

1. Where does the poet see herself when she thinks of her childhood? **[textbook exercise]**

Answer: She sees herself as a child once more, beneath her father's sheltering roof and near the old hall door of her childhood home.

2. What did the poet watch on the 'cloudy evening'? **[textbook exercise]**

Answer: She watched the cloudy evening fall after a day of rain, with blue mists of summer lying over the horizon's mountain chain.

C. From the School Paper: Seen Poem Extract

2nd summative 2025, HazarNotes Set-2. Read the extract and answer the questions that follow.

> "Oh, I'm gone back to the days of youth,
> I am a child once more..."
> through
> "That breathe of other years."

A. Choose the correct answer from the given alternatives [1 x 2 = 2]

(i) 'Morning's tears' refer to (a) mists, (b) dew drops, (c) vapour, (d) rain. **[2nd summative 2025, HazarNotes Set-2]**

Answer: (b) dew drops. The damp on the grass is compared to morning tears, and the dew is the tears the morning sheds on the grass.

(ii) The summer pall floats on the (a) valley, (b) mountain-chain, (c) sea, (d) roofs. **[2nd summative 2025, HazarNotes Set-2]**

Answer: (b) mountain-chain. The blue mists of summer pall lie over "the horizon's mountain-chain".

B. Answer the following questions [1 x 2 = 2]

(i) How does the poet describe damp on the grass? **[2nd summative 2025, HazarNotes Set-2]**

Answer: She says the damp stands in the long green grass as thick as morning's tears, that is, as thick and heavy as dew.

(ii) What does the phrase 'other years' mean? **[2nd summative 2025, HazarNotes Set-2]**

Answer: It means past years, the days of her youth and childhood that have gone by.

D. From the School Paper: Seen Poem Extract

2nd summative 2025, HazarNotes Set-3. Read the extract and answer the questions that follow.

"Mild the mist upon the hill,
Telling not of storms to-morrow;
No: the day has wept its fill,
Spent its store of silent sorrow..."
through
"near the old hall door."

A. Tick the correct alternatives [1 x 2]

(i) The hall door is (a) Old (b) New (c) Stylish (d) Broken **[2nd summative 2025, HazarNotes Set-3]**

Answer: (a) Old. The poem says "near the old hall door".

(ii) The sorrow of the day is described as (a) Silent (b) Terrible (c) Little (d) Huge **[2nd summative 2025, HazarNotes Set-3]**

Answer: (a) Silent. The day has "spent its store of silent sorrow".

B. Answer the questions in brief [1 x 2 = 2]

(i) Who is the poet of the poem? **[2nd summative 2025, HazarNotes Set-3]**

Answer: Emily Jane Bronte.

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(ii) What does the poet see upon the hill? **[2nd summative 2025, HazarNotes Set-3]**

Answer: She sees mild mist upon the hill.

E. From the School Paper: Seen Poem Extract

Howrah Zilla School 2025, Ray and Martin p. 105. Read the extract and answer the questions that follow.

"Mild the mist upon the hill,
Telling not of storms to-morrow;
No; the day has wept its fill,
Spent its store of silent sorrow.
I am a child once more;
Oh, I'm gone back to the days of youth,
And 'neath my father's sheltering roof,
And near the old hall door."

> **Note on the extract:** In this paper the two lines "I am a child once more;" and "Oh, I'm gone back to the days of youth," are printed in swapped order. In the textbook, "Oh, I'm gone back to the days of youth," comes first. The answers below follow the textbook order.

A. Choose the correct answer from the given alternatives (1 x 2 = 2)

(i) The mist is (a) below (b) down (c) upon (d) beside the hill **[Howrah Zilla School 2025, Ray and Martin p. 105]**

Answer: (c) upon. The poem opens with "Mild the mist upon the hill".

(ii) The day has wept (a) profusely (b) mildly (c) softly (d) tepidly **[Howrah Zilla School 2025, Ray and Martin p. 105]**

Answer: (a) profusely. "Wept its fill" means the day has cried to its full, that is, it has rained heavily and fully.

B. Answer the following question:

1. Where does the poet find herself when she is 'a child once more'? **[Howrah Zilla School 2025, Ray and Martin p. 105]**

Answer: Beneath her father's sheltering roof, near the old hall door, in her childhood home.

F. Additional Seen-Style Practice Questions

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These questions are written in the same style as the school-paper Seen questions to give more practice on the theme and imagery of the poem. They carry no source tag.

1. What does the line "The day has wept its fill" mean? **[Additional]**

Answer: The day is described as a person who has cried fully. It means it has rained enough during the day and now the rain is over.

2. What is meant by "summer pall"? **[Additional]**

Answer: A pall is a thick covering cloth. Here the blue summer mists lie like a thick cloth over the mountain chain on the horizon.

3. Why does the poet feel like a child once more? **[Additional]**

Answer: The misty evening and the old home remind her of her childhood days, so memory carries her back to the time when she lived under her father's roof.

4. Pick out one example of personification from the poem and explain it. **[Additional]**

Answer: "The day has wept its fill" gives the day human feelings and the act of weeping. The rain is described as the day's silent sorrow.

Grammar Exercises

Exercise 3: Identify the Sentences [textbook exercise]

Identify the following sentences as simple, compound and complex.

(i) He is too short to climb the wall. [textbook exercise]

Answer: Simple sentence. It has only one finite verb, "is". "To climb" is an infinitive, not a finite verb, so there is only one clause.

(ii) The sky was blue and the sun shone bright. [textbook exercise]

Answer: Compound sentence. It has two independent clauses of equal rank joined by "and".

(iii) The old man who lived in a village believed that the earth was flat. [textbook exercise]

Answer: Complex sentence. It has one main clause with two subordinate clauses: "who lived in a village" and "that the earth was flat".

(iv) Leaving a job midway is not a good practice. [textbook exercise]

Answer: Simple sentence. It has only one finite verb, "is". "Leaving" is a gerund, so there is only one clause.

(v) Last week I met a friend who gave me a bag which is brown in colour. [textbook exercise]

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Answer: Complex sentence. The main clause "I met a friend" has two subordinate relative clauses: "who gave me a bag" and "which is brown in colour".

Exercise 4: Do as Directed [textbook exercise]

> **Note on numbering:** In the printed textbook the item numbers of this exercise are garbled, with two items both numbered (ii). The items are renumbered (i) to (v) here in the order printed.

(i) The question was so easy that everyone could answer it. (Change into a simple sentence) [textbook exercise]

Answer: The question was easy enough for everyone to answer.

(ii) A friend in need is a friend indeed. (Change into a complex sentence) [textbook exercise]

Answer: A friend who stands by you in need is a friend indeed.

(iii) Pollution is one of the most severe threats to our beautiful planet. (Change into a compound sentence) [textbook exercise]

Answer: Pollution threatens our beautiful planet, and it is one of the most severe threats to it.

(iv) Do or die. (Change into a complex sentence) **[textbook exercise]**

Answer: If you do not do it, you will die.

(v) He was confused and stopped working. (Change into a simple sentence) **[textbook exercise]**

Answer: Being confused, he stopped working.

Writing

Exercise 5: Formal Letter [textbook exercise]

Write a letter within 100 words to the Headmaster/Headmistress of your school seeking leave of two days for attending the marriage ceremony of your elder sister.

Model letter (about 90 words). Fill in your own name, class and roll number.

To
The Headmaster/Headmistress
[Name of your school]

Respected Sir/Madam,

I am a student of Class IX, Section A, of your school. I write to seek leave of absence for two days, as the marriage ceremony of my elder sister will be held at our home. My presence at home is needed to help my parents with the arrangements and to attend the ceremony with my family. I shall be grateful if you kindly grant me leave for two days. I assure you that I will make up all the lessons and homework covered during my absence.

Thanking you.

Yours obediently,
[Your Name]
Class IX, Section A
Roll No. [ ]

Exercise 6: Letter to a Bookstore Owner [textbook exercise]

Write a letter within 100 words to the owner of a bookstore. You bought a book from the shop, but by mistake you left it there instead of bringing it back. Providing details of the book and its author, write to the owner asking him to find the book and keep it until you come to collect it.

Model letter (about 90 words). Replace the book details with your own if you use a different book.

To
The Owner
[Name of the bookstore]

Respected Sir,

I bought a book from your shop yesterday, but by mistake I left it on the counter instead of bringing it home. The book is Wuthering Heights by Emily Bronte, a hardbound edition with a dark green cover. I paid the full price and received the bill, but in my hurry I forgot to pick up the book. I request you to kindly look for the book in your shop and keep it safely until I come to collect it. I shall visit your shop tomorrow morning.

Thanking you.

Yours faithfully,
[Your Name]
[Your Address]

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