

**DON BOSCO SCHOOL OF EXCELLENCE,
SENIOR SECONDARY SCHOOL,
EGMORE.**

POEM – SEEDS

- Walter de la Mare

I. Meanings:

1. Pygmy – very short
2. Frail – small, weak and easily broken
3. Heaved away – pushed away with great effort
4. To bask – to enjoy the warmth and light
5. Pebble – a small, smooth stone
6. Shoots – young stems

II. Read the lines from the poem and answer the questions:

1. “The seeds I sowed-
For weeks unseen-

a. Who sowed the seeds?

Ans: The speaker sowed the seeds.

2. “But no; a pebble
Near them lies,
At least a cherry-stone
In size,”

a. Which is in the size of a cherry-stone?

Ans: The pebble is in the size of a Cherry-stone.

b. What does cherry-stone refer to?

Ans: The word Cherry-stone refers to the Cherry seed.

III. Answer the following:

1. How do we know that the seed wants to grow into a plant?

Ans: The seed's determination in pushing its way past a pebble to come into sunlight proves that it somehow wants to grow into a plant.

2. Do you agree with the speaker that the seed is stronger than it seems?

Ans: Yes. The seed is tiny, but it is quite strong and fights for its needs.

So, the seed is definitely stronger than it seems.

IV. Answer in a Paragraph:

1. How does the speaker highlight the strength of a tiny seed?

Ans: The speaker says that even though a seed is small and tiny, it has great strength. One would look at the tiny seed and think it is very weak. It is not so, according to the speaker. The small tiny sprout can even move a pebble to come out and enjoy the sunshine, which is required for it to grow into a healthy plant.

*******END*******

Don Bosco School of Excellence, Egmore

COUNTABLE NOUNS & UNCOUNTABLE NOUNS

Countable Nouns:

Most nouns in English are countable. Countable nouns are objects that can be counted as separate units using numbers. We can put a number before them.

Ex: Car, Book, Pencil.

Uncountable Nouns:

Some nouns are uncountable. We cannot put a number before them.

Uncountable nouns cannot be separated and counted individually.

Ex: Oil, Snow, Flour.

DETERMINERS

- Determiners are words that comes at the beginning of the noun.
- Words such as **much**, **many** which we use to describe the noun are called determiners.
- We use determiners with both countable and uncountable nouns.
- **Common Determiners:** many, much, some, any, no, few, fewer, less, a little, little, a lot of, lots of.

I. Complete these sentences with suitable determiners:

1. There are _____ animals in the zoo.
2. Can you pass _____ sugar?

3. Do you have _____ children?
4. There is ___ milk in the house, so I went out to buy a packet of milk.
5. I'm sorry, I can't hear you. There is far too _____ noise in the background.

*******END*******

Don Bosco School of Excellence, Egmore

The Visit to the Mansion

- Louisa May Alcott

I. Meanings:

1. Stately mansion – a large, impressive house
2. Befriend - make friends with
3. Briskly - with a lot of energy
4. Sore - painful
5. Stern - serious and strict

II. Opposites:

1. gruff x soft
2. stern x kind
3. well x unwell
4. tidy x untidy
5. dull x bright

III. Read the lines and answer the questions:

1. “How kind you are!” Said Laurie. “Now please take the big chair and let me do something to entertain you.”

a) Who does Laurie refer to as a kind person?

Laurie refers to Jo as a kind person.

b) Why does Laurie want to entertain Jo?

Laurie wants to entertain Jo because he is grateful to Jo for the kindness she has shown to him.

IV. Answer the following:

1. Why did Jo toss up a snowball?

Jo tossed up a snowball to attract Laurie's attention and make him look out of his window.

2. Why did Laurie invite Jo to his house?

Laurie was unwell and alone at home. He invited Jo to come to his house as he was lonely and bored and knew that he would feel better if he had someone to talk to.

3. What gifts did Jo bring for Laurie? Which one did he like the most?

Jo brought some blancmange and three tiny kittens for Laurie. He liked the kittens the most.

V. Answer in a paragraph:

1. How do we know that the Marches were very thoughtful neighbours?

The Marches sent gifts through Jo, when Laurie was sick. Meg sent some blancmange for Laurie. It was a thoughtful gesture as Laurie would not be able to swallow anything that hurt his throat. Beth sent tree kittens to cheer up Laurie as he was sad and lonely. Finally, when Jo realized how unhappy Laurie was, she invited him to visit her house. So that he would enjoy the warmth of the family. Therefore, all these efforts taken by the marches shows that they were thoughtful neighbours.

*****END*****