

The Snail

• Summary of the poem:

In the poem 'The Snail' by William Cowper, the poet describes the life of a snail, how it sticks to leaves, fruits and wall without falling down. It hides itself in its shell house from the outer world and shows displeasure to any kind of intrusion. It leads a loner's life, self-satisfied like a hermit.

Word Chart

Word	English Meaning
Secure	Safe
Imminent	Likely to happen soon
Betides	Befall; to happen
Chattels	Personal belongings
Shrinks	To contract; retreat

• Important Questions and Answers:

1. Where does the snail stick itself to?

Ans: The snail sticks itself to grass, leaf, fruit or wall.

2. Where does the snail feel safe?

Ans: The snail feels safe in its shell house.

3. When does the snail hide?

Ans: When the snail apprehends any danger due to inclement weather or other harm, it hides inside its shell for protection.

4. Explain the line "As if he grew there, house and all, / Together".

Ans: The shell is an inseparable part of the snail's body. His shell is his home and only possession. Hence it seems that the snail grew with it, altogether.

5. How does the snail react when its horns are touched?

Ans: When the snail's horns are touched, the timid creature immediately hides into his shell feeling displeasure for being disturbed.

6. What do you mean by the snail's 'self-collecting power'?

Ans: When the snail's sensitive horns are given the slightest touch, he takes no risk and immediately retreats into his shell house. This nature of snail is called self-collecting power.

Home work

• **Answer the following questions:** (to be done in your classwork copy)

1. Why is the snail not afraid to fall?
2. How does the snail feel when he shrinks into his house?
3. When does the snail seek shelter?
4. Who are the snail's companion?
5. What does the snail possess?
6. What makes the snail well satisfied?

Note:

- ❖ Drop your queries regarding the chapter in comment box, if any.
- ❖ Mention your NAME, CLASS, SEC, ROLL NO.
- ❖ Provide your CONTACT NO. (we shall directly contact you if required)