

How well did I read the poem?

Fill in the boxes using yes/ somewhat/ no.	
I enjoyed reading the poem.	
I got the idea of the poem on my own.	
I got the idea with the help of my friends in the group.	
The teacher helped me to understand the poem.	
I used the glossary given at the end of the poem.	

Answer the following questions:

1. What does the earth wish to have and why?
2. "I am big and round". What do you think is suggested by the repetition of this line?
3. Was the earth happy or sorrowful? Give reasons for your opinion.

Project

Collect /draw 5 pictures of animals / birds and fill the table given below.

Sl. No.	Name of the bird/animal	Physical features	Food habits	Habitation	Other information

Pick your favorite animal/bird from the above list and write about it. Give reasons why you like it and present it to the class.

C. Reading

Grand Contest in the Forest

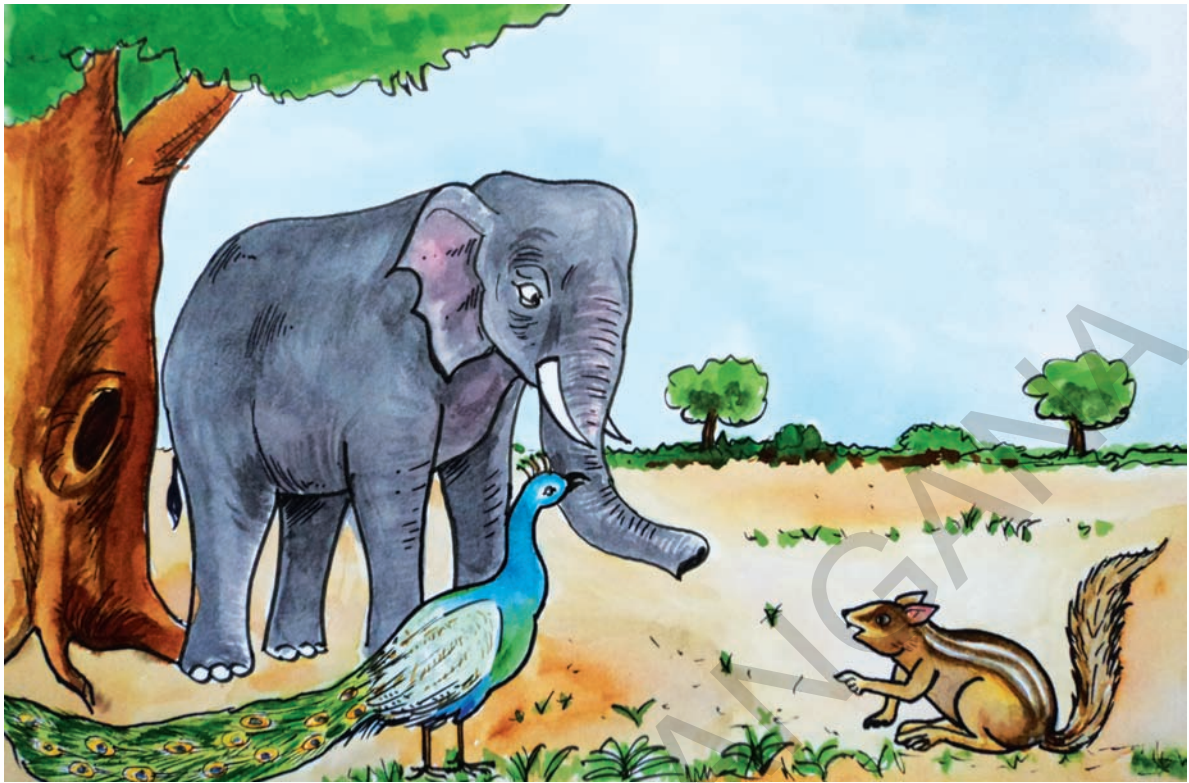
(The animals, birds and trees were excited. They began to prepare for the Great Day when they would give their best to the Great One except the little grey squirrel.)

There was excitement in the air. There was going to be a grand contest. Everyone should show something special, and the best one would be praised by the Lords of Fire, Wind, Water, and Sun...The animals and trees began preparations.

"I'll shine like sparkling sun-shine," said the laburnum. "My flowers will look like golden raindrops."

The gulmohar said, "I'll dress myself so that I look like the early morning sun - golden-red, spreading radiance."

"I'll offer the best honey I can find," shouted the bear.



The elephant said, “I’ll get the best fruit, so fresh it would still be on the branches... And lay them at her feet.”

Everyone had something beautiful or wonderful to offer on the great day.

Everyone, except a little grey squirrel, who talked sadly to himself, “What does a little grey squirrel with black stripes have to offer?”

The palash said, “The forest will be ablaze with my beauty. Though late, I’ll save some flowers.”

“And though early, I’ll make some flowers bloom,” snapped the gulmohar.

The beautiful trees and creatures had started competing and fighting.

“My mangoes are ready,” announced the mango tree.

The peacock said, “Emeralds and turquoises are my feathers.”

The lark trilled, “I’ll sing a song, beautiful and moving...”

The dove cooed, saying the Great One would love her soft notes.

Gifts and beauty abound, thought the squirrel in despair. He thought and thought. “But I will do what I can do best,” he decided. He found hollow branches and filled them with as many nuts and seeds of different trees as he could find.

The next day everyone was ready. The Great One came. The air became soft and balmy. The streams tinkled as they tumbled over little rocks.

“Great One, here is my gift,” said each, laying gifts at her feet. After everyone had given their gifts, the Great One looked at the little grey squirrel, and asked “Little one, why are you quiet?”



“I have nothing grand to offer you. I don’t glow or sing, but what I have I give with my heart,” and he scampered away. He returned, dragging his dry branches. The Great One looked grave.

“I see beauty in form and sound...” all waited holding their breath. “But the prize goes to the grey squirrel, for I can use the seeds and sow them; new life will burst forth...trees will bear more fruit. It is a gift not only for today but also for all our tomorrows.”

The creatures then marvelled saying, “How foolish we were to think only of the present. Three cheers for the little squirrel!”

Glossary

laburnum (n) :	a small tree with groups of yellow flowers hanging down
palash (n) :	a tree with red flowers, supposed to be sacred
turquoise (adj):	a bluish green colour

Answer the following questions:

1. “There was excitement in the air.” Why?
2. Who will sing a song?
3. How was the squirrel? Why?
4. Who was the winner of the contest?
5. Why did the Great One give prize to the squirrel?
6. If you were the judge, who would get the prize? Why?
Give reasons for your answer.

