

## TO A SKYLARK

Percy Bysshe Shelley composed 'To a skylark' in 1820. It is an ode glorifying a small bird that soars high in the sky to represent a spiritual power. No doubt, its song can throw its impact throughout the universe. The song of Skylark expresses deep knowledge of the world. The poet says that he is not in a position to enjoy that state of happiness or intense knowledge as the bird has got. So the poet calls the bird as happy spirit and it lives very close to heaven. He considers the bird unearthly. The bird is invisible to the poet but its song can be heard like the moon's invisibility at day time. The bird-Skylark symbolises perfection according to the poet. On the basis of all its inspiring attributes, it (Skylark) may be regarded as the token of Shelley's poetic inspiration which took rest on idealism. The poet remained an idealist up to the last.

The poem has got a number of qualities which add to its beauty and charm and they are: romantic ideal, love of nature, problems of life, sense of misery and surprise, lyricism and naturalness. Similes and abstract images bringing known and strange together give a unity of thought to the poem.

The metre of the poem is suitable for its subject. There are 21 stanzas containing five lines each. The first four lines are trochaic trimeter and the fifth one is an Alexandrine.

### Notes (Difficult words and their meanings)

Blythe: happy, Poorest: express Unpremeditated: natural  
The blue deep: sky like a star of Heaven: Venus, the morning star  
shrill delight: the clear notes of the skylark Loud: full  
hymns Unbidden: natural songs heeded not: did not care  
enbowed: enclosed Vernal: belonging to the spring season  
Hymeneal: Hymen, the Greek god of marriage  
hanguor: Tiredness or fatigue