

**BANGLADESH INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL, (ES), RIYADH**  
**Notes & worksheet on English Literature**  
**Concord Hymn (By– Ralph Waldo Emerson)**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Grade 7 \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Summary:** Emerson's poem the "Concord Hymn" was sung as a hymn in 1837 in Concord, Massachusetts at the completion of the Obelisk, a battle monument which commemorated the contributions of the people of Concord during the Battle of Lexington and Concord (April 19, 1775). This was the first battle of the American Revolution. The poem signifies the struggle or the American war of Independence when the 13 colonies of North American won independence from Britain and became known as the United States.

**Short questions and answers.**

**1. Why does the poet call the bridge rude?**

Ans: The rude bridge is the Old North Bridge in Concorde and the word 'rude' signifies the shape of the bridge and the way it arches over the water as if to be defiant.

**2. How does the poet Emerson want the Americans to pay tribute to the brave soldiers?**

Ans. Emerson urges the Americans to make a vow or set a 'votive stone' never to forget what the 'sons' did to change the lives of the people by their deaths.

**3. What message do you think Emerson wants to convey through his poem?**

Ans. I think Emerson wants to convey through his poem that we should never forget the sacrifices made by those who died so that we may enjoy freedom.

**4. What is a 'votive stone'?**

Ans. By 'votive stone' Ralph Emerson means a monument that should be built on the green bank by the river. He wants the people of America to commemorate the minutemen who died for the freedom of the country.

**5. Who are minutemen?**

Ans. The word 'minutemen' refers to the members of a group of men who were not soldiers but who were ready to fight immediately when they were needed during the American Revolution.

**Long questions and answers.**

**1. Define ballad.**

Ans. A ballad is a rhyming narrative poem. It tells a story that can be sung. A ballad is dramatic and tells its story without revealing the personal attitudes or feelings of the poet. The poem 'Concord Hymn' is a ballad because it is a rhyming poem which is sung to commemorate the minutemen who sacrificed their lives during the American Revolution for the independence of the country.

**2. What was the author's purpose in the poem "Concord Hymn"?**

Ans. The author's purpose in the poem is to remind the American people of the great battle which took place on 19 April, 1775 in Lexington and Concord for the freedom of the country. He also wants the people to pay tribute to the minutemen who fought and died for their beloved country and urges the Americans to set a 'votive stone' never to forget what the 'sons' did to change the lives of the people by their deaths.

**3. Explain the following stanza.**

***By the rude bridge that arched the flood,  
Their flag to April's breeze unfurled, (unfolded)  
Here once the embattled (tormented) farmers stood,  
And fired the shot heard round the world.***

Ans. The rude bridge is the Old North Bridge in Concord and the word 'rude' signifies the shape of the bridge and the way it arches over the water as if to be defiant. As the flag flies in the April's 'breeze', the land where the American farmers made their stand lets the whole world know that they were not going to be pushed around. The shot heard round the world was fired at Lexington on April 19, 1775 and this started the war for American Independence.

**Learn the definitions of and make sentences with the following words.**

1. arched - in the shape of an arch

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2. unfurl – unfold; open out

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3. embattled – surrounded by problems and difficulties.

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4. foe – enemy; antagonist

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5. ruined – ( of a building, town, etc. ) destroyed or severely damaged

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6. creep – move stealthily

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7. votive - presented to a god as a sign of thanks

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8. redeem – to make sb/sth seem less bad

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9. sire – the male parent of an animal, especially a horse

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10. shaft – the long, narrow part of an arrow

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