

BANGLADESH INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL, ENGLISH SECTION

ENGLISH LITERATURE-NOTES-GRADE 5

POEM –FRONT PORCH

Author-Leslie Nelson Jennings

I. Vocabulary

1. Creak -to make a prolonged grating or squeaking sound
2. Porch-a covered area adjoining an entrance to a building and usually having a separate roof.
3. Farmsteads- a farm with its buildings
4. Hereabouts- near this place
5. Look back-to think about something that happened in the past.
6. Rocker – a chair that can be rocked back and forth
7. Beam-a long squared timber used to support the roof of a building.
8. Neighborly-friendly

II. Answer the following questions in brief.

1. The author of the poem “Front Porch”.

Leslie Nelson Jennings

1. Why is the past so important in the poem “Front Porch”?

In the past, the front porches were made neighborly and wide enough to allow the friends, relatives and neighbors to stop and have a chat. Sitting on the rocking chairs and remembering and talking about the old things help us to go back in time.

2. Why is understanding the poem so important?

The poet influences, guides and shapes the present and it affects the future. It is what makes us unique and makes us who we are. It educates us about our culture and our values. It helps us understand why things are the way they are.

III. Explain with reference to context.

1. “A man of sixty wasn’t past his prime

And nothing worth a penny went to waste”

The above lines are taken from the poem ‘Front Porch’ written by Leslie Nelson Jennings.

In this poem the poet illustrates and admires the rural life style. According to the poet, people living in rural areas are hardworking and thrifty. A man of sixty is still very active, strong and healthy. People believe in saving, recycling and reusing things.

2. “The creak of hickory rockers and the hum
Of talk about what happened years ago”

The above lines are taken from the poem ‘Front Porch’ written by Leslie Nelson Jennings.

Here the poet illustrates the pleasant minds of country life. The poet admires the rural life style where people spend their leisure relaxing in their rocking chairs or chatting with their friends, family and neighbors.