**Chapter- 7.1 English Language and Literature**

**Lesson Name THE DUCK AND THE KANGAROO**

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**Introduction of the lesson- THE DUCK AND THE KANGAROO**

**INTRODUCTION**

 This is a humorous poem. This poem does not make any sense but gives a great of reading the language in poetry. This is a dialogue between a good Duck and a friendly Kangaroo. The Duck requests the Kangaroo to give him a ride on his back. The Kangaroo is willing that he requires some reflections. The Duck tells him everything frankly and then they enjoy a ride around the world three times.

***Introduction (2):***

“The Duck and the Kangaroo” is a humorous poem which falls in the category of ‘Nonsense Verse’. It is composed in the form of a dialogue between two animal friends. Though the episode is unusual and unreal, it is still enjoyable because it appeals to our imagination, curiosity and a sense of the music of words. We are amused to visualize a Duck perched on the tip of a Kangaroo’s tail and the Kangaroo hopping all over. The comic element of the poem is enhanced as the Duck and the Kangaroo both discuss their situation very seriously. Another noteworthy quality of the poem is its perfect craftsmanship and musicality.

“The Duck and the Kangaroo” revolves around two characters – a Duck and a Kangaroo. It is a dialogue between the two of them and the poem narrates the story of their adventure. Hence the title “The Duck and the Kangaroo” is a very apt one.

***THEME***

The poem “The Duck and the Kangaroo” is a nonsensical poem. But reading between the lines shows that it actually deals with the significance of love for adventure. Adventure makes life worth living and adds colour and joy to it. The poem also deals with the theme of friendship. Friends, who help others, not only give joy but also experience happiness themselves.

***TITLE***

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***MESSAGE***

The poem gives the message that those who are generous in acknowledging and appreciating the capabilities of others also gain from it. Admiration and politeness are positive qualities that make others comfortable. They help to win good friends and makes life very enjoyable and worthwhile.

***RHYME SCHEME***

The rhyme scheme of the poem in the first and second stanza is ababccaa and ababccbb respectively. The remaining three stanzas follow the scheme ababccdd.

***LITERARY DEVICES***

***Refrain***

A refrain is a phrase or a verse that is repeated regularly in a poem. It adds music to the poem, emphasizes certain core ideas, or simply brings unity to the narration.

The repetition of the line “Said the Duck to the Kangaroo” many times in the poem makes it a refrain. This repetition brings out the urgency of the Duck’s desire and also emphasizes her persistent nature

***CHARACTERS***

***The Duck***

The Duck is a funny creature who readily admires others, often for qualities that she herself lacks. For example, she is fascinated by the Kangaroo’s hopping abilities. Rather than feeling jealous of the Kangaroo, she admires him. She is far-sighted and has an analytical mind which she uses to solve her problems. For example, she is ready with woollen socks, cloak and cigar to tackle the problem of wet feet and cold weather.

 The duck is an optimist and does not indulge in self-pity over what life had offered her. She loves adventure and wishes to travel to far off and exotic places. So, she approaches the Kangaroo and requests him to take her on a trip. She has a cheerful disposition and little joys and achievements thrill her.

***The Kangaroo***

The Kangaroo is a very sensitive creature who doesn’t believe in taking rash decisions. When the Duck requests him to take her on a ride, he gives the whole proposal a serious thought before making any commitment. He does not accept or reject the Duck’s request rashly. The Kangaroo is also very frank and straightforward. He does not offer any lame excuse and discusses his real worry with the Duck. He makes it clear that he is hesitant to take her along with him as her feet were so wet and cold that it could make him suffer from rheumatism. Thus, his frankness builds an honest friendship which ensures happiness to both him and the duck.