**Unit 5: Circle of Peace**

**Section 3: Night of the Scorpion**

**Poem appreciation (pages 127–128)**

1. a. A scorpion comes in to take shelter from the rain.

b. It stings the speaker’s mother.

c. The peasants come in and sit around her.

d. They pray and take God’s name a hundred times.

e. They search for the scorpion in vain.

f. The peasants click their tongue in hopelessness.

g. The mother twists and groans in pain.

h. Many weird remedies are tried to relieve her of pain.

i. The pain subsides after twenty hours.

j. The mother is grateful that the scorpion spared her children.

1. a. They uttered prayers for the speaker’s mother, searched for the scorpion, spoke consoling words, tried different remedies such as powders, mixtures and herbs to ease the pain.

b. The father tried every blessing and curse; powders, mixtures and herbs. He even poured a little paraffin over the wound and put a match to it. The speaker watched everything in silence though he/she was not convinced about the actions being taken.

c. The speaker is probably too young at that time to object to what the elders are doing. Though he observes the mother’s suffering, he/she probably hopes that whatever the elders are trying will make her well again.

d. The speaker is moved by his/her mother’s sentiments. Despite all the suffering, all she thinks of is her children and is glad that they were spared.

e. The poet is trying to point out the common practices and superstitions in the society; people’s apathy to the sufferer and the ultimate love of a mother.

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| **Visual imagery** | **Sound imagery** |
| peasants like swarms of flies | buzzing the name of god |
| flash of diabolic tail in the dark room | they clicked their tongues |
| throwing giant scorpion shadows | groaning on a mat |
| more candles, more lanterns, more neighbours, more insects | to tame the poison with an incantation |
| I watched the flame feeding on my mother | more insects … the endless rain |