

Flames in the Forest

Answer the questions briefly

1. How did the weather worsen the fire?

It was a hot and dusty afternoon in the middle of May. It had not rained for several weeks. The grass had turned completely brown and the leaves of the trees were covered with dust. The wind was strong and it worsened the fire; forest fires spread fast if there is a strong wind blowing.

2. Why was Romi in a hurry to get home?

Romi was in a hurry to get home because his father was not well. The doctor had given him some medicines which he had to take to his father. Despite knowing that there was forest fire spreading, he decided to go home, paddling through the forest.

3. What was the effect of the forest fire on the different animals?

The forest fire had scared the animals living in the forest. They were trying to escape the fire just like Romi and Teju. Wild animals were fleeing from the forest fire, hares were leaping across the road, a band of monkeys ran across the path chattering excitedly. Romi had to paddle slower because birds and animals kept coming out of the bushes. Smaller birds were also rushing across following the road-parrots, jungle crows, magpies, owls and the air filled with their cries.

4. What do you think started the forest fire? Why do you think so?

It was the middle of May and it had not rained for several weeks. Dry leaves and twigs covered the forest floor. Even the grass had turned brown. The fire must have started because of the dry leaves and branches covering the forest floor. There was a village nearby, the leaves or twigs must have caught fire somehow. Moreover, the strong blowing wind would have spread the fire faster.

The River

SUMMARY OF THE POEM

Stanza 1

In stanza 1, the river is characterized as **a wanderer, a nomad and a tramp**. The focus in stanza 1 is about the words wanderer, nomad and tramp. The river is like a person; a wanderer who keeps on moving from one place to the other without stopping at any particular place for long. Same goes to the river which continues flowing and never stops.

Stanza 2

In stanza 2, the river is characterized as **a winder**. It keeps twisting and turning and just can't seem to be able to keep still as if it does not rest or stops. Even though there are valleys or hills upfront, the river will continue flowing by adapting the surface of the Earth. It talks about the inability of the river to remain at rest like a child who is unable to keep still.

Stanza 3

In stanza 3, the river is portrayed as **a hoarder**. The river is like a person; a hoarder who likes to accumulate or gather things which are well hidden or guarded from others at its base or bottom. Because when the river flows, it won't stop to evade things which come across its way. The river will carry all the things with it and bury them in the river bed. All the hidden things at the bottom of the river gives it a mysterious aura.

Stanza 4

In stanza 4, the river is pictured as **a baby**. The sound of running water of a river is characterized as the sound of a baby gurgling, humming and sucking his thumb. In addition, a baby's voice sometimes can be too loud and sometimes it can be too slow. Same goes to the river, whenever he goes fast down the stream the sound is loud and when it comes to a more flat ground, the sound lessen and sometimes it cannot be heard.

Stanza 5

In stanza 5, the river is portrayed as **a singer** seeing that the river's movement is significant to the movement of a singer on the stage. While moving, the river moves with sounds and the sound of flowing water of the river resonates and is heard throughout the countryside.

Stanza 6

The river is said to be **a monster** which can cause massive destruction when it's angry. Because, when the water level increases and the speed of the stream is boosted, it will be a disaster that no one could stop it until it alleviate itself. It shows how a calm river can turn into a destructive force of nature especially during a flood which in turn can destroy properties and even cause death to people.