

PPT

Poem 5- A Legend of the Northland (Class-IX)

Module 1/2



Poem and Explanation

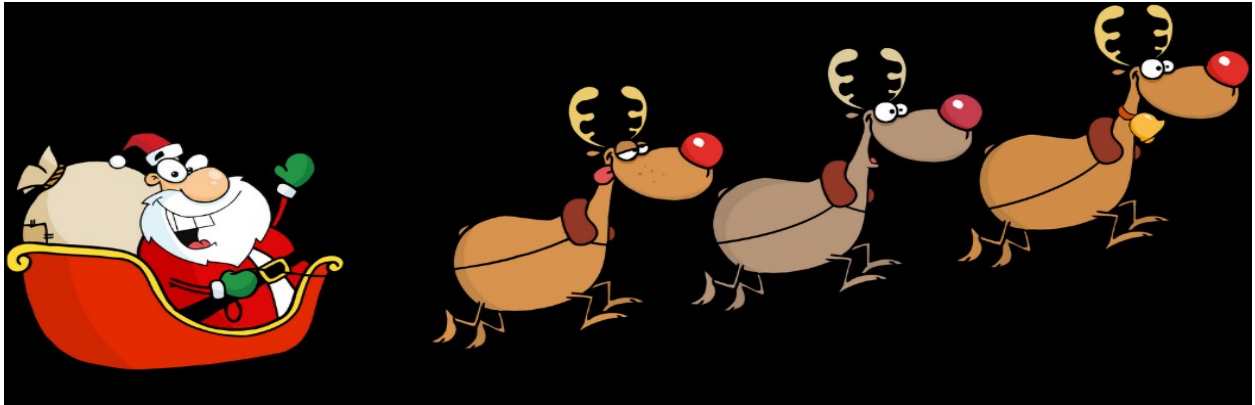
Stanza 1

**Away, away in the Northland,
Where the hours of the day are few,
And the nights are so long in winter
That they cannot sleep them through;**

Explanation

In the region around the North Pole (Northland), the duration of the day is very less because its position is such that the Sun's rays reach for a very less time. When this area is experiencing winter season, the duration of night is very long, and the day time hours are very less. In line 4, 'they' refers to the people who

live in this region. The poet says that the duration of the night time is so long that the people cannot sleep them through. If they go to bed, take a few hours of sleep and then, they wake up, it is still night time. He wants to emphasize on the fact that the duration of the night is very long.



Stanza 2

Where they harness the swift reindeer

To the sledges, when it snows;

And the children look like bear's cubs

In their funny, furry clothes:

Explanation

The Northland region experiences severe cold conditions. It is a snowy area. The reindeer is an animal which is found in this polar region. People tie the reindeers to sledges and then the reindeers pull the sledges. He adds that the children look like young ones of a bear because they wear funny looking clothes made of fur which is like the furry skin of a bear.

Stanza 3

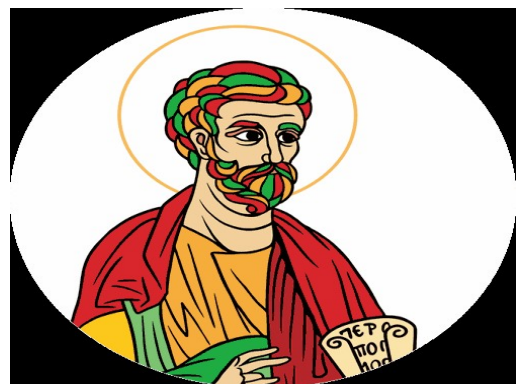
**They tell them a curious story —
I don't believe 'tis true;
And yet you may learn a lesson
If I tell the tale to you.**

Explanation

In line 1 'they' refers to the parents or elders and 'them' refers to the children or the younger generation. The elders of the Northland region tell a strange and interesting story to the younger generation. The poet says that he doesn't think that the story is true, but if he tells the story to the reader, maybe the reader could learn a lesson from it. The story gives an important message.

Stanza 4

**Once, when the good Saint Peter
Lived in the world below,
And walked about it, preaching,
Just as he did, you know,**



Explanation

The story is about Saint Peter. When Saint Peter used to live in the world and went around, giving religious lectures to the people just like all saints do, then an incident happened.

Stanza 5

**He came to the door of a cottage,
In travelling round the earth,
Where a little woman was making cakes,
And baking them on the hearth;**



Explanation

When Saint Peter was moving around the world, giving religious lectures to the people, he reached the door of a cottage where a small woman was making cakes. She was baking the cakes in the fireplace.

Stanza 6

**And being faint with fasting,
For the day was almost done,
He asked her, from her store of cakes,
To give him a single one.**

Explanation

As Saint Peter had not eaten anything the entire day, he was very hungry and was feeling weak. So, he went to this woman who was baking cakes and he asked for one cake out of the many cakes that she had baked.

Stanza 7

**So she made a very little cake,
But as it baking lay,
She looked at it, and thought it seemed
Too large to give away.**

Explanation

The woman was selfish. She did not give cake from her store. Instead, she started making a very small cake for Saint Peter. She did not want to share her things. But, when she put the cake for baking, she looked at it and thought that this cake was too big to be given to someone.

Stanza 8

**Therefore she kneaded another,
And still a smaller one;
But it looked, when she turned it over,
As large as the first had done.**

Explanation

The little miser woman thought that the cake was too big to be given away. So, she started making another smaller cake. When she looked at that cake, she again felt that it was as big as the previous one. Again, she was not ready to give this smaller cake to Saint Peter.

Thank You