

New Era High School, Panchgani	
Assignment 1	Class VII
Subject	English Literature – Poetry
Topic	Poem –The Squirrel by Mildred Bowers Armstrong
Time Line	1 week (27th April to 2nd May, 2020)
Students’ understanding	<p>Attitudes and beliefs developed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>‘You can’t enjoy a better life until you appreciate what is already in it’</i> Children should be able to comprehend that even the tiniest creature holds an important place in our lives. • During the present time, being at home and with family, a child can learn to appreciate the smallest of creatures like the birds, butterflies and other small animals that add beauty to nature and sustain it.
Moral Values to imbibe	Admiring and appreciating the gifts and bounties showered upon us by God have never been given much thought. Offering gratitude through prayers and serving others is the only way we can express ourselves. Nature shows us how to live, love and grow alongside each other.
Theme	<p>Introduction: About the poetess: Mildred Bowers is an American poetess who won the 1928 Yale Younger Poets Prize. In the poem, she describes a squirrel observed in her garden.</p> <p>You may have seen a squirrel sitting on the ground eating a nut. What did it look like? Here is a poet’s description of just such a squirrel.</p> <p>Poem. The Squirrel: He wore a question mark for tail, An overcoat of gray, He sat up straight to eat a nut. He liked to tease and play,</p>

	<p>And if we ran around his tree,</p> <p>He went the other way.</p> <p>Mildred Bowers Armstrong</p> <p><i>Meanings</i> <i>question mark for tail; The tail that looks like a question mark.</i> <i>overcoat of gray: the squirrel appears wearing a gray coat.</i> <i>tease: to make fun</i></p> <p><i>Summary</i> The poet describes how the squirrel, covered in gray fur, sits in an upright position on a tree branch eating a nut. His tail looks like a question mark because of its bent shape. The happy and lively squirrel likes to play with the poet. The poet tells us about the nature of the squirrel that it is innocently naughty and likes to tease anyone who comes near him.</p> <p>You can also refer to the online NCERT English textbook- Honeycomb.</p>
<p>Activities</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Poetry provides comfort, a way to express and a discipline of finding the essence with few words. With the help of your family and friends during these days of isolation, try to write a poem on the things you feel you have recently started noticing around you. The poem can be short or long according to your ability to write. Please include an apt title and the name of the poet that is ‘<i>Yourself</i>’ 2. Writing activity: Write a paragraph about the squirrel described in the poem in about 80 words. Include the following points: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Its colour • Its resting area • Food • Its play • Its movement You can also draw a picture of a squirrel or a tiny creature around you. <p>KIDNDLY NOTE: THE ABOVE ASSIGNMENT HAS TO BE HAND WRITTEN ONLY. TYPED WORK WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED.</p>
<p>Submission</p>	<p>Students should scan the written assignments or click a picture of the assignments and send a clear image of the same by an email to rita.kothari@nehs.in . The assignment has to be sent on or before 2nd of May, 2020.</p> <p>The hard copy is to be submitted as and when the student reports to the school.</p>

	<p>Please note the above activities are a part of the Internal Assessment and is mandatory. The assessment parameters will be as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• On time submission.• Presentation, neatness and legible handwriting.• Creativity.• Content and language/level of the written vocabulary.
Resources	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. NCERT English Text Book – Honeycomb

Subject Teacher: Ms Rita Kothari
