1.6 The Alchemy of Nature

Warming Up!

	3 3 1	lities in each set, so that t eaningful word. Join the so	the first letter of each of the
Set	,	ptable/ \underline{T} olerant/ \underline{N} eat/ \underline{E} ncourag	ging Resourceful.
Set	2 Selfless/Inspiring		
	- The word is		
Set	3 Youthful/Modest		
	- The word is	······································	
Set	4 Affectionate/Compo	assionate/Empathetic/Earnest/I	Honest/Reliable/Trustworthy
	- The word is		
	- The message is		
	rious aspects of Natur ther.	re have special features tha	t make them differ from one
For	example, Birds :- app	earance, shape, colour, size,	food habits, habitat, sound etc
• V	Vrite such special feat	ures of each of the followin	g.
Lan	ıd		
Wa			
Tre			
Inse			
			der. You can write more than
	beginning with the s		U
В		3.5	V
C			
D		1 ,	Υ
Е		0	Z
F		P	
G		Q	
Н.		R	
Ι.		S	
Ţ		Т	

Alchemy of Nature

To see a world in a grain of sand

And a heaven in a wild flower,

Hold infinity in the palm of your hand

And eternity in an hour

- William Blake

Something, as tiny as a grain of sand, can spark off an idea or imagination of a huge significance to the world. One can witness and experience the beauty of Heaven in something as small as wild flower and derive joy forever. Only one should have the eyes and time to see it.

Infinity is endless space; but your small palm can hold the destiny of earth through your efforts.

Eternity is endless time; but just an hour in your life can make a difference to the world forever.

(Great deeds can surpass the limits of time and space. They never die.)

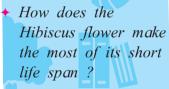
We **instinctively** turn to outdoor activities and nature as a way of relaxing and **enhancing** our well being. Nature soothes and nurtures. Nature fulfils and motivates. Nature whispers and commands.

Are you listening?

When I do, it leaves me in complete awe.

We have a hibiscus plant in our garden. Every fortnight a flower blooms on it—big, bright and tender. Through the day it smiles with the sun and dances with the wind, but as evening approaches, it starts wilting. The morning after, it withers completely and by evening it falls and becomes one with the earth again. The flower comes to life only for a day, yet it does so in full splendour. What if we too lived our life, however short, to its fullest?

We went to a rocky beach and saw the spread of the majestic ocean and the rocks alongside, carved, sculpted and shaped by the water. Water is so gentle,



- instinctively: by a natural instinct
- enhancing : enriching
- What role does nature play in our lives?
- awe : great wonder and amazement
- wilting: drying and drooping
- withers: dries and decays

Guess the meaning of:

splendour

rock so hard, yet, as the water flows over it every day, for years, the rock gives in. It takes the shape that the water commands. Our problems are so **colossal** and we are so small, yet if we persist...

We saw small bits of grass peeping through the small cracks in a concrete pavement. It left us thinking : however impossible things may look, there is always an opening...

We saw a tree bare of all leaves in the cold winter months. We thought its **chapter was over**. But three months passed, spring set in and the tree was back to its green majesty once again, full of leaves, flowers, birds and life. What if we too had the **conviction** that, however difficult things are right now, it will not remain so for ever. Remember, this too shall pass.

We saw an army of ants lugging a fly which was at least ten times the ant's size. The ants organized themselves around the fly, lifted it on frail feelers and carried it to quite a distance. Their teamwork and perseverance were impressive. What if we too are consistent, organized, focused...Spider webs are delicate, yet very strong. A rainbow colours the entire sky. Oysters take in a grain of sand they open up with a pearl. Innumerable stars shine across the infinite sky. Clouds take new shapes with every passing moment. The wind makes trees dance with **unhindered** passion. Water, without hint of ego, changes its form according to the dictates of the sun and the wind. When we see a caterpillar turn into a butterfly, a flower turn into a fruit, we experience the alchemy of nature... we touch it and become gold ourselves.

– Raksha Bharadia

ALCHEMY

An ancient forerunner of Chemistry, about attempts to convert base metals into gold (Here, it refers to a mysterious, magical process of transforming things.)

- ★ Who is stronger- water or rocks? Justify your response.
- colossal : huge, massive
- ♦ What teaches us that hard times do not last forever? How?
- chapter was over : life was over
- conviction: strong, firm belief
- **lugging**: pulling with great difficulty
- frail feelers : weak legs
- perseverance : constant efforts inspite of obstacle
- consistent : steady
- unhindered : without disturbance
- alchemy: mysterious power or magic that can change things

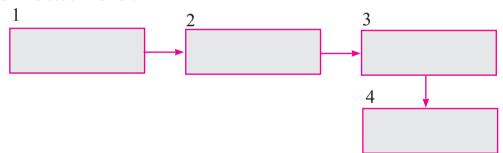
ENGLISH WORKSHOP

1. What things in nature teach us the following:

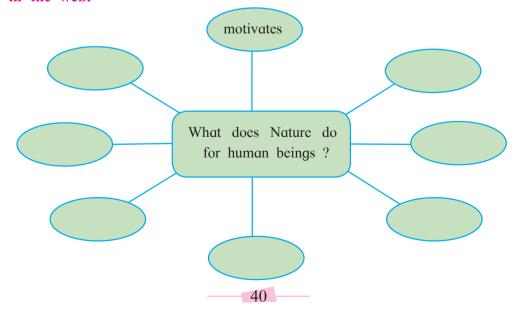
- (a) Nothing is impossible to achieve
- (b) Problems are not permanent
- (c) Be humble and adjust
- (d) Make the best use of time and opportunity
- (e) Be persistent
- (f) Many hands make work light
- (g) Delicate structures are not a sign of weakness

2. Read the questions from the lesson. What do they imply?

- (a) Are you listening?
- (b) What if we too lived our lives, however short, to its fullest?
- (c) What if we too are consistent, organised, focused . . . ?
- 3. Go through the lesson again and complete the flow-chart that highlights the life of a 'hibiscus' flower.



4. Fill in the web.



5.	The writer explains the contrasting features of 'water'	and	'rock' i	n the	lesson
	Write all the features of both water and rock in the gi	iven	table.		

Water	Rock
1.	1.
2.	2.
3.	3.
4.	4.

6. The writer has very positively described the different things in nature. Discuss with your partner the special features of each one of them. Add on the list.

Part of Nature	Special feature	Value learnt
1. Rainbow		
2. Caterpillar		
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		

7. Think and answer in your own words.

- (a) How should you deal with difficulties and problems?
- (b) 'An oyster turns a grain of sand into a pearl.' What can we learn from this example?
- (c) How does nature succeed in its 'Alchemy'? What can it turn a small person into?
- (d) Which two aspects of nature teach us to accept change and adjust according to the situation?
- (e) Why does the writer begin by quoting the lines from William Blake's poem (Auguries of Innocence)?

8. (A) Pick out from the lesson 10 examples of each.

Concrete	Nouns	(that	you	can	touch	or	see)
			•				

For	example, sand
(1)	
(2)	
(3)	
(4)	
(5)	
(6)	
(7)	

(9)
(10)
• Abstract Nouns (that which you cannot touch or see)
For example, infinity
(1)
(2)
(3)
(4)
(5)
(6)
(7)
(8)
(9)
(10)
(B) Underline the verbs in the sentences below and say whether they are Transitive (needing an Object) or Intransitive (need not have an Object).
(1) One can witness and experience the beauty of Heaven.
(2) It leaves me in complete awe.
(3) Nature soothes and nurtures.
(4) It withers completely.
(5) The flower comes to life only for a day.
(6) A rainbow colours the entire sky.
(7) It smiles and dances.
9. (A) Compose about 8 to 10 sets of imaginary dialogues between a bird, a tree and its fruit regarding the effects of environmental changes. Write it in your notebook.
(B) Prepare a Fact file of any of the following plants/trees, using the points given.
[coconut / neem / basil / cactus / apple]
Name of Plant/Tree
Scientific name
Region and climate
• Features
• Growth
Size, shape and colour
• Uses
Any special feature
42

(8)

- 10. 'Impossible' itself says 'I M possible'. Do you agree? Justify your answer by citing something that you have experienced or heard from someone.
- 11. You have an environment protection week celebration in your school. You have invited an environmentalist. Your friend interviews him/her about how to save the environment. Frame suitable Interview Questions.
- 12. Write a News Report on the 'Environment Day' celebrated in your school.

13. Just For Laughs! Enjoy!

• Divide the class into two groups. On 12 to 15 slips of paper, Group A writes 12 to 15 conditional clauses beginning with 'If'.

(For example, If I work very hard,)

Group B writes 12 to 15 main clauses.)

(For example, I would/shall have a pizza.)

Now, one student from Group 'A' reads the first conditional clause (possibility) and one student from Group 'B' reads the first main clause. It forms crazy sentences, just for laughter and fun. ENJOY!



