

Read a poem from 1816 by John Keats

On the Grasshopper and Cricket.

The poetry of earth is never dead:

When all the birds are faint with the hot sun,
And hide in cooling trees, a voice will run
From hedge to hedge about the new-mown mead;
That is the Grasshopper's--he takes the lead

In summer luxury,--he has never done
With his delights; for when tired out with fun
He rests at ease beneath some pleasant weed.

The poetry of earth is ceasing never:

On a lone winter evening, when the frost
Has wrought a silence, from the stove there shrills
The Cricket's song, in warmth increasing ever,
And seems to one in drowsiness half lost,
The Grasshopper's among some grassy hills.

December 30, 1816.

A little help:

Tricky words

mead = a meadow or stretch of grass

new mown = the grass has just been cut

...he has never done = he has never finished...

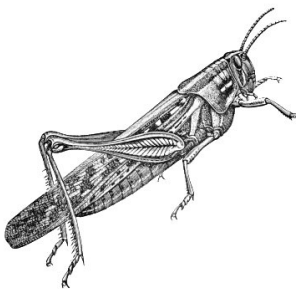
ceasing = stopping

lone = lonely

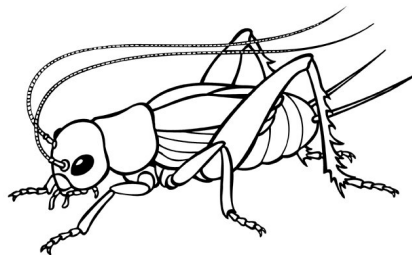
wrought = caused or ensured

shrills = makes a high pitched sound

drowsiness = being tired



The Grasshopper



The Cricket

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W



START WITH THIS

Make two lists:

1. Write down all the words which suggest heat or warmth
2. Write down all the words which suggest coldness

EXTRA

Can you make a list of words you would never use in daily life now?

QUESTIONS

1. What do you think Keats means by "the poetry of earth"?
2. What do the birds feel like?
3. Why do the birds hide in the trees?
4. Whose voice is heard?
5. Is the grasshopper happy or sad, and how do you know?
6. Where does the grasshopper rest?
7. At what time of year do you often hear the cricket?
8. What is the effect of its song?
9. At this time, where is the grasshopper?
10. How do you think the poet feels like?

Now write two poems of your own.

In the first you pretend to be the grasshopper and in the next you pretend to be the cricket.