



মণিগোবর্ধন শর্মা সচিবালয় (সংল)

**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (S)**

Government of Manipur

**CLASS X**  
**ADDITIONAL ENGLISH**  
**CHAPTER 2 - TO THE CUCKOO**  
**WILLIAM WORDSWORTH**

**NOTES**

**Introduction:**

William Wordsworth was born at Cockermouth, Cumberland in England. He is notable for the establishment of a Romantic movement in English literature. Some of his notable works are The Prelude, Lyrical Ballads, A solitary reaper, To the skylark etc.

Wordsworth is also known as “the Nature Poet” the high priest of nature. It does not mean that he wrote only about beautiful scenery of nature. His poem talks about the special relationship that exists between mankind and nature.

In this poem “To the cuckoo” it is all the admiration of cuckoo bird and how its voice affects positively on the poet. It cheers the mood of the poet and takes him to his childhood memories.

**Summary:**

Wordsworth discovers in nature an uncommon power which cannot only satisfy human beings but also can transform this earth into a homeland for fairies and other natural agents. It is proved in this poem.

The poem opens as Wordsworth welcomes the cuckoo bird with the sense of familiarity saying that he has heard it before. He is calling cuckoo a carefree new comer to the fact that cuckoo appears first when spring comes to the earth. It is also free from all worldly worries. He wonders whether he should call it a bird or its identity will remain as that of a wandering



voice. The poet, lying on the green grass, hears the song of the cuckoo. The song seems to him a composition of two fold cry which echoes across the hills and valleys sometimes far and sometimes near. The poet confesses how the bird's song about flowers and valley actually transports him to his childhood days bringing back all the sweet memories of the past. Then, he clearly states that in reality he has never seen the bird. He has only heard its voice. The cuckoo remains a mystery to the poet, so is its voice being produced by an invisible bird.

Remembering his sweet childhood memories, the poet narrates how in his school days he used to desperately search for the cuckoo in every possible hunt, be it bushes or trees or the sky. This gives an idea to the reader how much he loves and adores the bird .He still yearns and hopes to see the bird even after the passage of his boyhood days. The poet comes back to the present and informs that he still listens to the same voice of the mysterious bird while lying on the grass. The voice brings back the same feeling once again as he used to feel in golden time of his boyhood days. The poet refers to this bird as a blessed one as it fills the world with joy and happiness. Its melodious voice transforms the materialistic [substantial] world into unsubstantial world, a fairy place, a home suitable for the mysterious spring cuckoo bird.

This poem has eight stanzas with rhyming scheme **abab**.