



CLASS X
ADDITIONAL ENGLISH
CHAPTER 3 - TRAVELLER'S RETURN
ROBERT SOUTHEY

NOTES

INTRODUCTION

Robert Southey (1774 – 1843) was an English poet of the Romantic school. His most enduring contribution to literary history is the children's classic 'The Story of the Three Bears', the original Goldilocks story, first published in Southey's prose collection "The Doctor". He is also one of the poets who is basically a nature lover.

In this poem, he describes his point of view from the eyes of a traveller.

SUBSTANCE

Actually this poem is a vivid description of the beautiful and delightful sights and sounds of nature that the traveller encounters on his way back home. As the traveller returns home, morning welcomes him in a very pleasant tune by the sweet song of skylark flying high in the sky. At noontime, when he feels tired, the gales (strong wind) around him cheer him up. When he gets tired by walking under the sun in the afternoon, the water flowing in the river provides him with soothing melody. As the morning turns into evening, he feels calm and could hear the sound of shepherd bell from a far distant making him feel good. The traveller experiences many beautiful sights and sounds of nature but the sweetest of all the pleasures of the day is the voice of love that welcomes his return when he finally reaches home, sweet home.

This poem has five stanzas. The last word of the second and the fourth lines of every stanza have the same rhyming scheme. For example - sky and high have the rhyming scheme. Likewise, play-way; around- sound; and morn- return.