



CHAPTER 1

CRADLE SONG

NOTES:

About the poet

Sarojini Naidu, known as the “Nightingale of India”, was a celebrated poet and also an important figure in India's struggle for independence from British colonial rule.

Substance of the poem

The poem "Cradle Song" written by Sarojini Naidu is a lullaby. In the poem, the poet who is a mother is trying to lull her child to sleep. The poem shows maternal love and care for her child. It also shows the power of a mother's voice which is soothing for the child.

Explanation of the poem

The poem has been divided into 3 stanzas having 6 lines each. The rhyme scheme of the poem is aabccb.

Stanza - 1

In the first stanza, the poet prepares the child to have a lovely dream by creating imagination of beautiful places. She says that she has brought a lovely dream with glittering dew from gardens of spice, fields of rice and stream full of lotus flowers.

Stanza -2

In the second stanza, the poet/mother is trying to let her child be lost in the imagination of an enchanted world of dream full of wild fireflies flying among neem plants in the dark night. She says that she has stolen a lovely dream for him from the poppybole which has sleep inducing effect.

Stanza - 3

In the last stanza, the child finally falls asleep. The mother bids him good night in the golden light of the gleaming stars around him. Then, she touches the child gently and wishes him sweet dream.

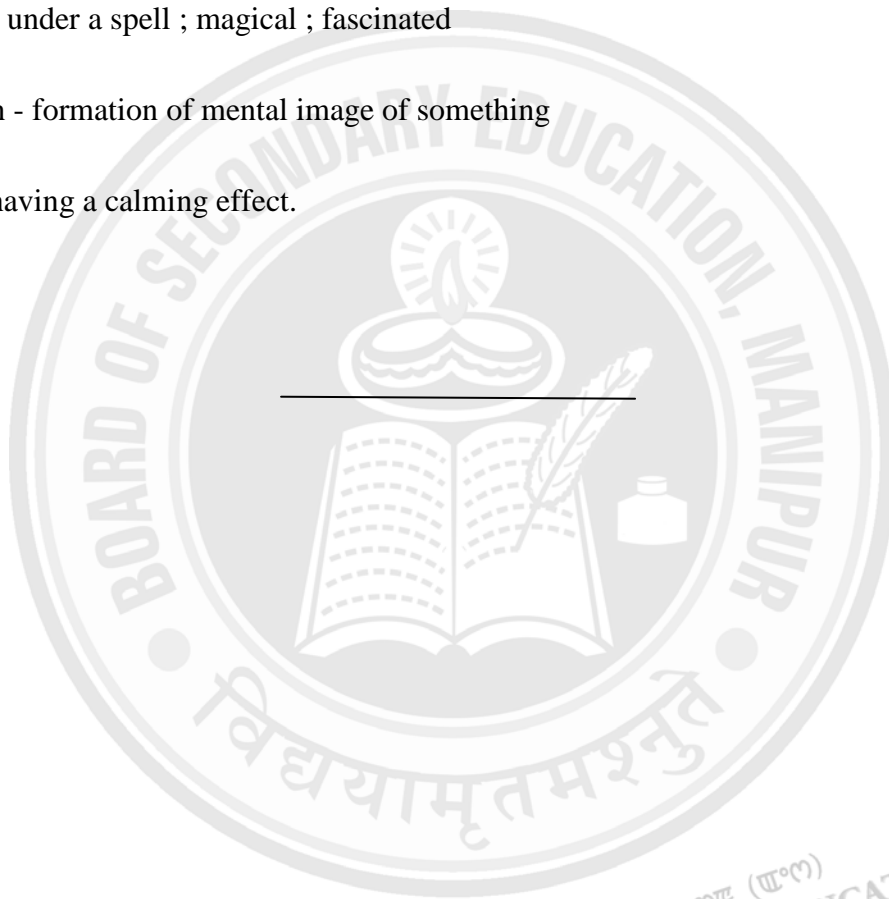
Glossary

lullaby - a soothing song for sending a child to sleep

enchanted - under a spell ; magical ; fascinated

Imagination - formation of mental image of something

soothing - having a calming effect.



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