



Lesson 7

Woodman, Spare that Tree

NOTES:

About the poet :

George Pope Morris was an American Editor, Poet and songwriter. Born on 10th October, 1802 Philadelphia, USA and died on 6th July 1864, New York city. He is best known for his poem "THE OAK" the original version of the poem "Woodman, Spare the tree".

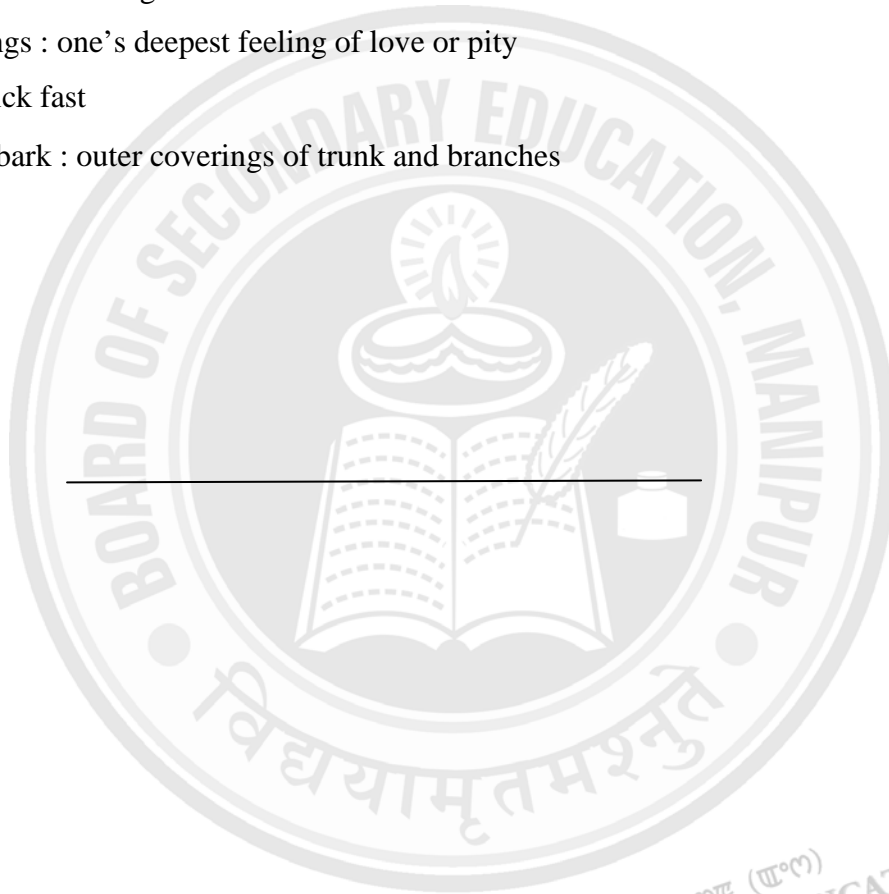
Substance of the poem:

"Woodman, Spare that tree" by George Pope Morris exemplifies the compassion of the old man with the old oak tree. He shows his deep feeling of love and affection with the tree, and how the tree is in connection with his family. The poet recalls those days when he sought the shade of the tree and realizes that it is his responsibility to save the tree from being harmed. He urges the woodman to "cut not its single bough". All his glorious childhood memories with the other members of the family were recollected in one frame. To the woodman it is a mere old tree but for him it was a friend who was the silent witness of his past. It was been planted by his forefather and so it is the pride of their family. The poet symbolically represents the selfish nature of mankind who cut down trees without much valuing the importance of tree in the ecosystem. The poet concludes with the intense emotional relation with the tree as he says, "my heartstrings round thee cling". He says that no one can harm the tree until he was there to save.



Word Meaning:

1. Woodman : Woodcutter
2. Spare : Keep it safe
3. bough : branch
4. forefather : ancestor
5. cot : cottage
6. gushing : flowing in plenty
7. oak : a tree with rough hard wood
8. heartstrings : one's deepest feeling of love or pity
9. cling : stick fast
10. bark : outer coverings of trunk and branches



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