



মণিপুরৰ শিক্ষা আৰু কল্যাণ বিভাগ (সংস্কৃত)

**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (S)**  
Government of Manipur

**CLASS IX**  
**ENGLISH LITERATURE READER (POETRY)**  
**CHAPTER-6**  
**NIGHT MAIL**  
**(W.H. AUDEN)**

**NOTES**

**SUMMARY**

In the poem, “Night mail” the poet W.H. Auden describes the journey of night train that carries the mail, from England to Scotland. The poet narrates the story of her travel through various places and the attitude of birds, dogs, sheep etc. on her arrival.

The poet says that Night Mail is coming. She is bringing postal orders, cheques, and letters for all people. She is steadily moving in plain areas. She reaches on time in spite of all the hurdles in the way. She passes the cotton fields and moorland. She throws white steam across her shoulder and continues her journey. She makes noise and passes through vast areas of bent grass.

On her arrival, the birds turn their heads to look at her. They watch her passing but do not leave their nest on the bushes. The dogs and sheep keep sleeping and they have no reaction at all.

She passes through farms where farmers and labourers are sleeping. Although she makes a loud noise, no one awakes. They continue to slumber

**POETIC DEVICES USED IN THE POEM**

- Alliteration** - “Birds” bushes  
“blank-faced”  
“feel” and “forgotten”
- Simile** - Towards the fields of apparatus, the furnaces  
set on the dark plain like gigantic chessmen.
- Personification** - “she”  
she speeds up or slows  
“snorts noisily.”