



সিঙ্গাৰোক্ষণ্ডল ঝেং নক্সামল (ঝাংল)

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (S)

Government of Manipur

CLASS IX

ADDITIONAL ENGLISH

CHAPTER 7 - NEITHER OUT FAR NOR IN DEEP

ROBERT FROST

NOTES

SUMMARY

The poem 'Neither Out Far Nor in Deep', written by Robert Frost (1874-1963), a nature poet, is set at the seaside. The poem is a satire on the human folly of neglecting or escaping from the reality in searching something unreal and beyond human understanding. The poem explores the themes of never ending quest of men and of dissatisfaction. In the poem, land and sea are used to symbolise reality and the opposite of reality.

The first stanza of the poem opens with the people looking at the sea relaxing and enjoying as an escape from the harsh realities of life. In the second stanza, the people on the shore kept watching the sea just to see the ship passing by or the gull standing by the sea. The third stanza focusses on the reality of life represented by land and the sea as something unknowing. The last stanza depicts how people escape from reality and trying to search the truth by looking out in the unfathomable sea. The final stanza makes it clear that people are wasting away their lives in meaningless quest.

The poem is a lyrical poem of sixteen lines divided into four quatrains. The poem follows the regular rhyme scheme - *abab* and uses **iambic trimeter**.