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SEMESTER 2

AEC

(ABILITY ENHANCEMENT COURSE)

COMPULSORY ENGLISH

UNIT 1: POETRY

WILLIAM WORDSWORTH: 'LUCY GRAY'

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Lucy Gray

William Wordsworth

Oft I had heard of Lucy Gray,
And when I cross'd the Wild,
I chanc'd to see at break of day
The solitary Child.

No Mate, no comrade Lucy knew;
She dwelt on a wild Moor,
The sweetest Thing that ever grew
Beside a human door!

You yet may spy the Fawn at play,
The Hare upon the Green;
But the sweet face of Lucy Gray
Will never more be seen.

“To-night will be a stormy night,
You to the Town must go,
And take a lantern, Child, to light
Your Mother thro' the snow.”

“That, Father! will I gladly do;
'Tis scarcely afternoon—
The Minster-clock has just struck two,
And yonder is the Moon.”

At this the Father rais'd his hook
And snapp'd a faggot-band;
He plied his work, and Lucy took
The lantern in her hand.

Not blither is the mountain roe,
With many a wanton stroke
Her feet disperse, the powd'ry snow
That rises up like smoke.

The storm came on before its time,
She wander'd up and down,
And many a hill did Lucy climb
But never reach'd the Town.

The wretched Parents all that night
Went shouting far and wide;
But there was neither sound nor sight
To serve them for a guide.

At day-break on a hill they stood
That overlook'd the Moor;
And thence they saw the Bridge of Wood
A furlong from their door.

And now they homeward turn'd, and cry'd
“In Heaven we all shall meet!”
When in the snow the Mother spied
The print of Lucy's feet.

Then downward from the steep hill's edge
They track'd the footmarks small;
And through the broken hawthorn-hedge,
And by the long stone-wall;

And then an open field they cross'd,
The marks were still the same;
They track'd them on, nor ever lost,
And to the Bridge they came.

They follow'd from the snowy bank
The footmarks, one by one,
Into the middle of the plank,
And further there were none.

Yet some maintain that to this day
She is a living Child,
That you may see sweet Lucy Gray
Upon the lonesome Wild.



O'er rough and smooth she trips along,
And never looks behind;
And sings a solitary song
That whistles in the wind.



Short Questions:

1. Who wrote *Lucy Gray*?
William Wordsworth wrote *Lucy Gray*.
2. What kind of poem is *Lucy Gray*?
Lucy Gray is a lyric written as a ballad.
3. How many stanzas are there in *Lucy Gray*?
Sixteen stanzas of 4 lines each.
4. When was *Lucy Gray* written and published?
Lucy Gray was written in 1799 and published in the second edition of *Lyrical Ballads* (1800).
5. Who was *Lucy Gray*?
Lucy Gray was a girl who lived with her parents on the wild English moor.
6. What kind of a child was *Lucy Gray*?
Lucy Gray was a solitary child who had no friends.
7. Give a synonym for “Mate ... comrade”?
“Mate ... comrade” means ‘friends’.
8. Where did *Lucy Gray* live (dwell)?
Lucy Gray lived on a wide moor.
9. What is the meaning of ‘moor’?
‘Moor’ means open land / field.
10. What animals did the speaker see on the moor?
The poet saw fawn (a young deer) and hare (rabbit) on the moor.
11. Why was *Lucy Gray* sent to the Town?
Lucy Gray was sent to the town to fetch her mother as there would be a snow storm.
12. Who sent *Lucy Gray* to the Town?
Lucy Gray’s father sent her to the Town.

13. What was the weather like when Lucy Gray went to town?

It was a dark, snowy and stormy night when Lucy Gray went to town.

14. What did Lucy Gray take with her when she went to bring her mother?

Lucy Gray took a lantern with her.

15. At what time did Lucy Gray start for the Town?

Lucy Gray started in the afternoon at two o'clock.

16. How did she know the time?

Lucy Gray knew the time as the Minster-clock had struck two.

17. What is a Minster-clock?

In Britain a "minster clock" is a clock in a minster or a church.

18. What did Lucy Gray see in the sky as she started for the Town?

Lucy Gray saw the Moon.

19. What was Lucy Gray's father doing as she left for the Town?

Lucy Gray's father was chopping wood to light a fire.

20. What is a faggot-band?

Faggot-band means a bundle of wood.

21. With what did Lucy Gray's father chop firewood?

Lucy Gray's father chopped firewood with a hook (bill hook).

22. What is the meaning of "Not blither is the mountain roe"?

"Nothing is as joyful as a mountain deer" – 'roe' is a deer.

23. What did Lucy Gray feel as she left for the Town?

Lucy Gray felt cheerful as a mountain deer and ran through the snow to the Town.

24. When did the storm come?

The storm came before its time.

25. When did Lucy Gray reach the town?

Lucy Gray lost her way in the snow-storm and never reached the town.

26. Who are the “wretched Parents”?

Lucy’s parents are the “wretched Parents” who were sad as their daughter was lost.

27. Where did Lucy Gray’s parents search for her?

Lucy Gray’s parents searched for her over the moor all night. They could not find her.

28. Where was the Bridge of Wood?

The Bridge of Wood was a furlong from the house of Lucy Gray.

29. What is a furlong?

A ‘furlong’ is a unit of distance – a furlong is about 200 metres.

30. Who saw Lucy Gray’s footprints in the snow?

Lucy Gray’s mother saw the footprints of Lucy Gray near the Bridge of Wood.

31. What is the meaning of ‘spied’?

‘Spied’ means ‘saw’.

32. What is the meaning of ‘print of Lucy’s feet’?

Footprints of Lucy Gray.

33. What did the parents see on the Bridge of Wood?

The last footprints of Lucy in the middle of the Bridge of Wood.

34. What had happened to Lucy Gray?

Lucy Gray probably fell off the Bridge of Wood and was drowned.

35. What do people believe about Lucy after she was lost?

People believe Lucy Gray is a living Child – still seen in the wild moor.

36. Where can people see Lucy Gray even now?

People can still see Lucy Gray in the lonesome Wild (wild moor).

37. What does Lucy Gray do in the wild moors?

Lucy Gray trips along and sings a solitary song but never looks back.

38. What is the message of the poem, *Lucy Gray*?

The poem *Lucy Gray* shows the power of Nature and the transience of human life through the loss of a child.