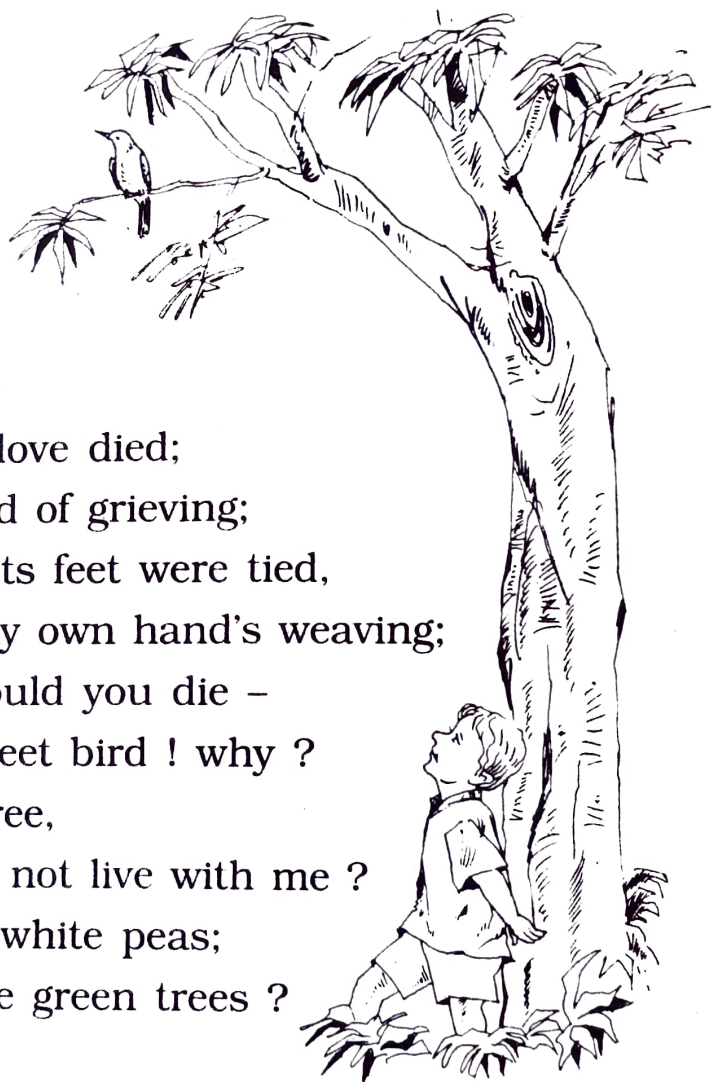


Lesson 8

Song

[**John Keats** was born on 31 October, 1795 in London. He received a little formal education. He was one of the most popular English Romantic lyric poets. His first matured poem is the sonnet 'On First Looking Into Chapman's Homer'. Some of his popular poems are 'The Eve of St. Agnes', 'Ode to a Grecian Urn', 'Ode to a Nightingale' etc. His poetry is marked by vivid imagery. He died of tuberculosis at a very young age of 26 years on 23 February, 1821.]



I had a dove and the sweet dove died;
 And I have thought it died of grieving;
 O, what could it grieve for ? Its feet were tied,
 With a silken thread of my own hand's weaving;
 Sweet little red feet ! why should you die –
 Why should you leave me, sweet bird ! why ?
 You liv'd alone in the forest-tree,
 Why, pretty thing ! would you not live with me ?
 I kiss'd you oft and gave you white peas;
 Why not live sweetly, as in the green trees ?

The poem : In the poem, the poet mourns the death of his sweet dove. He kept the bird in a cage tying its feet with a silken thread. Though he loved it very much and provided it with all the luxuries, the bird died. Then the poet realizes that these luxuries could not be better for the bird than its free life in the forest.

Wordnote

grieve (v)	:	feel great sadness
silken (adj)	:	made of silk
oft (adv)	:	often

EXERCISE

1. Name two popular poems by John Keats. 1
2. According to the poet how did the dove die? 1
3. Where did the bird live alone? 1
4. What did the bird grieve for? 1
5. How does the poet lament the death of the bird? 2
6. Explain with reference to the context. 3
"I kiss'd you oft and gave you white peas;
Why not live sweetly, as in the green trees?"
7. Give rhyming words for each of the following. $\frac{1}{2} \times 4 = 2$
died ; peas ; weaving ; why

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