

ENGLISH

CHAPTER 8: MEADOW SURPRISES



MEADOW SURPRISES

~Summary~

-by Lois Brandt Phillips

The poem "**Meadow Surprises**" is written by **Lois Brandt Phillips**. It talks about the surprises that a meadow offers. The poem is divided into **six stanzas** with **four lines** each.

According to the poet, the meadows offer plenty of **surprises**. However, one could find them as long as one knows how to **move around** and **where to look**. The poet asks us to take a **stroll** and listen by the **stream**. We might discover a **butterfly** unfolding its "**drinking straw**" to suck up the nectar from the wildflowers. We may also find **rabbits** hiding behind the bushes or hopping around. The poet asks us to **walk slowly** because, otherwise, we might scare the butterfly or the rabbit away. Meadows unfold more surprises through **wildflowers** such as **dandelions**. Interestingly, dandelions **transforms** as it matures. It turns into white "**airy parachutes**" from **yellowish-golden flower**. The **texture** of the flower also changes from smooth to **fuzzy**. When you **blow** onto it, you would see the **pieces** fluttering across in the air like **parachutes**. The poet also says that one can discover various **meadow houses** such as **burrows, nests, and anthills**.

The poet **concludes** the poem by **reminding** us that **meadows** are filled with **surprises**, and it has got many things to tell. People could **discover** them by **themselves** if they know how well to **look** and **listen** for them.



You may discover the meadows surprises if you look and listen well

~Conclusion~

In this poem, the poet says that the meadow is full of different things and one can explore it well. He lists down a few things that one can find in the meadow – butterflies, rabbits and flowers. Then one can also explore the farmhouses.

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NCERT SOLUTIONS**Questions (Page No. 124-125)**
(Working with the Poem)

Question 1. Read the lines in which the following phrases occur. Then discuss with your partner the meaning of each phrase in its context.

- a. velvet grass
- b. drinking straws
- c. meadow houses
- d. amazing mound
- e. fuzzy head

Answer:

- a. velvet grass indicates that the grass is as soft as velvet.
- b. drinking straws means the butterflies who drink the nectar from the flowers seem as if they are drinking it with straws.
- c. meadow houses refer to the houses of rabbit i.e. the burrows, of ants i.e. anthills and nests.
- d. amazing mound means the mounds created by the ants for dwelling.
- e. fuzzy head indicates the flowers of the dandelion which now floats in the air when we blow it.

Question 2. Which line in the poem suggests that you need a keen eye and a sharp ear to enjoy a meadow? Read aloud the stanza that contains this line.

Answer: The line that suggests that you need a keen eye and a sharp ear to enjoy a meadow is:

“You may discover these yourself, if you look and listen well.”

Question 3. Find pictures of the kinds of birds, insects and scenes mentioned in the poem.

Answer: Do it yourself.

Question 4. Watch a tree or a plant, or walk across a field or park at the same time every day for a week. Keep a diary of what you see and hear. At the end of the week, write a short paragraph or a poem about your experiences. Put your writing up on the class bulletin board.

Answer: Do it yourself.

Question 5. Read the following poem about the world of nature, which is as busy as the world of human beings.

Busy World

Bees are buzzing, frogs are hopping,

Moles are digging. There's no stopping

Vines from climbing, grass from growing,

Birds from singing, winds from blowing,

Buds from blooming. Bees are humming,

Sunbeams dancing, raindrops drumming.

All the world is whirling, dizzy,

Summertime is very busy!

Answer: Do it yourself.