

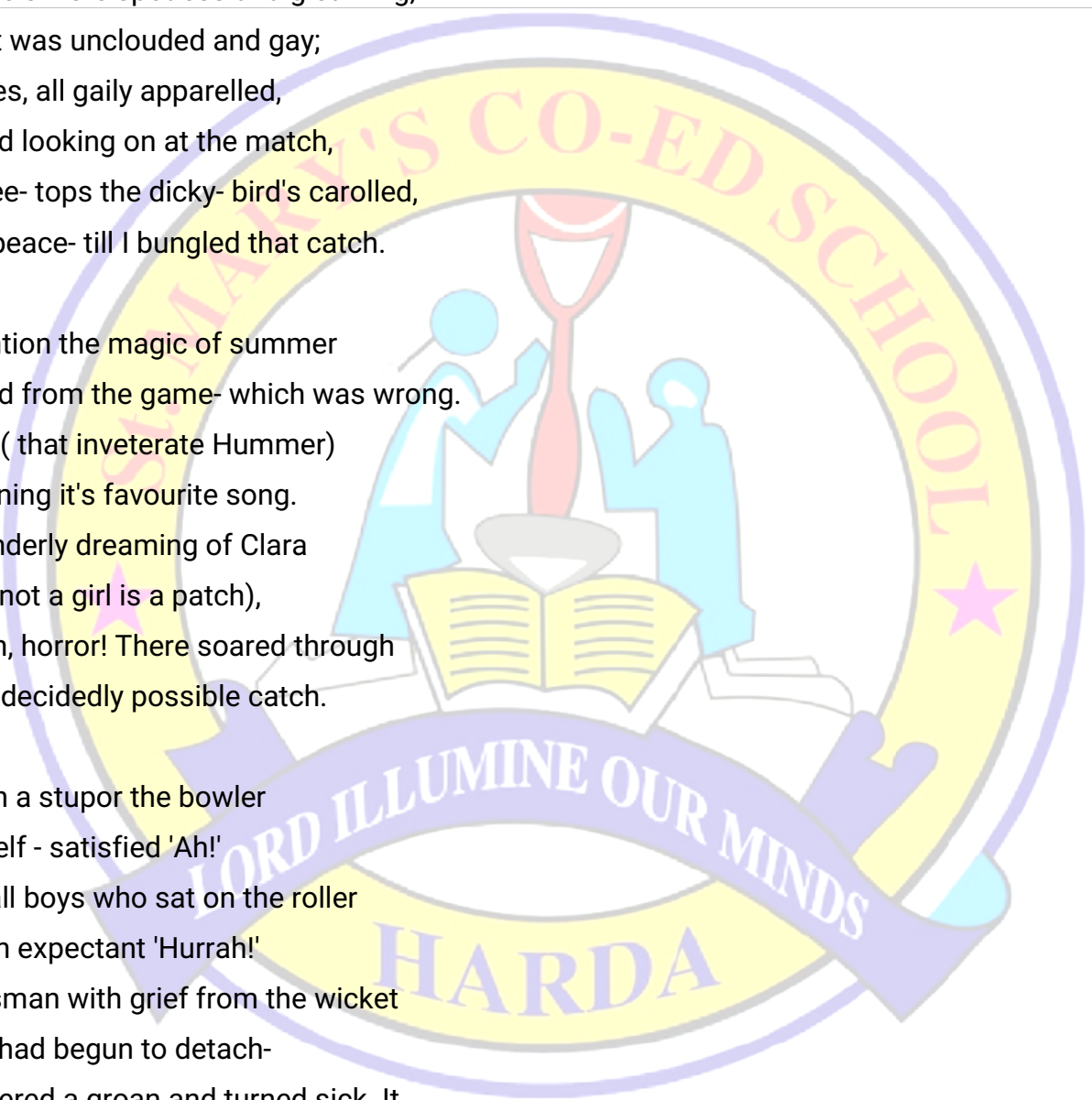
The poem:- 'Missed'

The sun in the heavens was beaming,
The breeze bore an odour of hay,
My flannels were spotless and gleaming,
My heart was unclouded and gay;
The ladies, all gaily apparelled,
Sat round looking on at the match,
In the tree- tops the dicky- bird's carolled,
All was peace- till I bungled that catch.

My attention the magic of summer
Had lured from the game- which was wrong.
The bee (that inveterate Hummer)
Was droning it's favourite song.
I was tenderly dreaming of Clara
(On her not a girl is a patch),
When, ah, horror! There soared through
the air a decidedly possible catch.

I heard in a stupor the bowler
Emit a self - satisfied 'Ah!'
The small boys who sat on the roller
Set up an expectant 'Hurrah!'
The batsman with grief from the wicket
Himself had begun to detach-
And I uttered a groan and turned sick. It
Was over. I'd buttered the catch.

Oh, ne'er, if I live to a million,
Shall I feel such a terrible pang.
From the seats in the far- off pavilion
A loud veil of ecstasy rang.
By the handful my hair (which is auburn)



I tore with a wrench from my thatch,
And my heart was seared deep with a raw burn
At the thought that I'd fozzled that catch.

Ah, the bowler's low, querulous mutter
Points loud, unforgettable scoff!
Oh, give me my driver and putter!
Henceforward my game shall be golf.
If I'm asked to play cricket hereafter,
I am wholly determined to scratch.
Life's void of all pleasure and laughter;
I bungled the easiest catch.

P.G WODEHOUSE

Stanzawise explanation:-

The first stanza describes the general atmosphere. It was a pleasant sunny day with gentle breeze blowing, the poet was playing cricket in a perfect dressed with light cloth. He was in a perfectly happy mood also, there were many well dressed ladies watching the match. Even the birds in the trees seemed to be singing happily. The day in general was happy until the poet missed the catch.

In second stanza the poet was distracted by the magic of the beautiful day and he admits that it was wrong of him to be so. The bee that hummed it's special song. He was dreaming about his girlfriend Clara, who was more beautiful than any other girl. But then to his horror a ball was hit high and was coming towards him and it was possible for a perfect catch.

In the third stanza, the poet was in a shock and he heard the satisfied reaction of the bowler expecting a catch. The small boys among the audience started cheering and he saw the disappointed batsman already going from his wicket. But the poet uttered a shocked cry as he had missed the perfect catch.

In the fourth stanza, the poet feels that even if he lived for a million years will he feel the terrible pain he felt then. He heard the extreme happiness shout of his opponent team and tore his reddish- brown colour hair and pull the hair violently. He felt a burning pain in his head as he missed up the catch.

In the fifth stanza, the irritated bowler muttered some jeering comment. At that time the poet decided to leave playing cricket altogether and start playing golf. After that he decided to pull out if he is asked to play cricket. He felt that all the laughter and pleasure departed from his life because he had bungled a catch.

Read to understand

A. Read these lines and answer the questions with reference to the context.

'Oh, ne'er, if I live to a million,
Shall I feel such a terrible pang.
From the seats in the far- off pavilion
A loud veil of ecstasy rang.'

1. Who is the speaker in these lines?

Ans: The poet is the speaker in these lines.

2. What incident made the poet 'feel such a terrible pang'?

Ans: The poet bungled the catch. This made him 'feel such a terrible pang'.

3. What was the reason that led to the incident?

Ans: His attention the magic of summer had lured from the game. This was the reason.

B. Answer these questions.

1. 'All was peace' Give three reasons why the poet says this.

Ans: The three reasons are:-

- i) It was a sunny day.
- ii) Ladies were well- dressed and were happy to watch the match in progress.
- iii) Birds were sitting on the treetops and singing a cheerful song.

2. Which three words in the third stanza identify the sport being played?

Ans: The three words are-- bowler, wicket and batsman.

3. Who was grieved and why?

Ans: The batsman was grieved because he thought that it was a catch, he got ready to leave the patch.

4. What did the poet do when he realized his mistake?

Ans: He started pulling his hair violently.

5. Which two lines in the fourth stanza show the poet's regret?

Ans: The two lines that show the poet's regret are-

'And my heart as seared deep with a raw burn
At the thought that I'd fozzled that catch.'

Discuss and Write:

The poet is disappointed when he misses the catch. Which game dos the poet decide to play there on and why?

Ans: The poet decided to leave playing cricket and he decided to start playing golf. Because his attention was not in cricket.

Read to appreciate:

Match the expressions used in the poem with their meanings.

1. unclouded and gay----- b) alert and active
2. not a patch on-----d) not as good as
3. tore with a wrench-----e) pulled with force
4. determined to scratch-----c) stay away
5. driver and putter-----a) types of golf clubs

