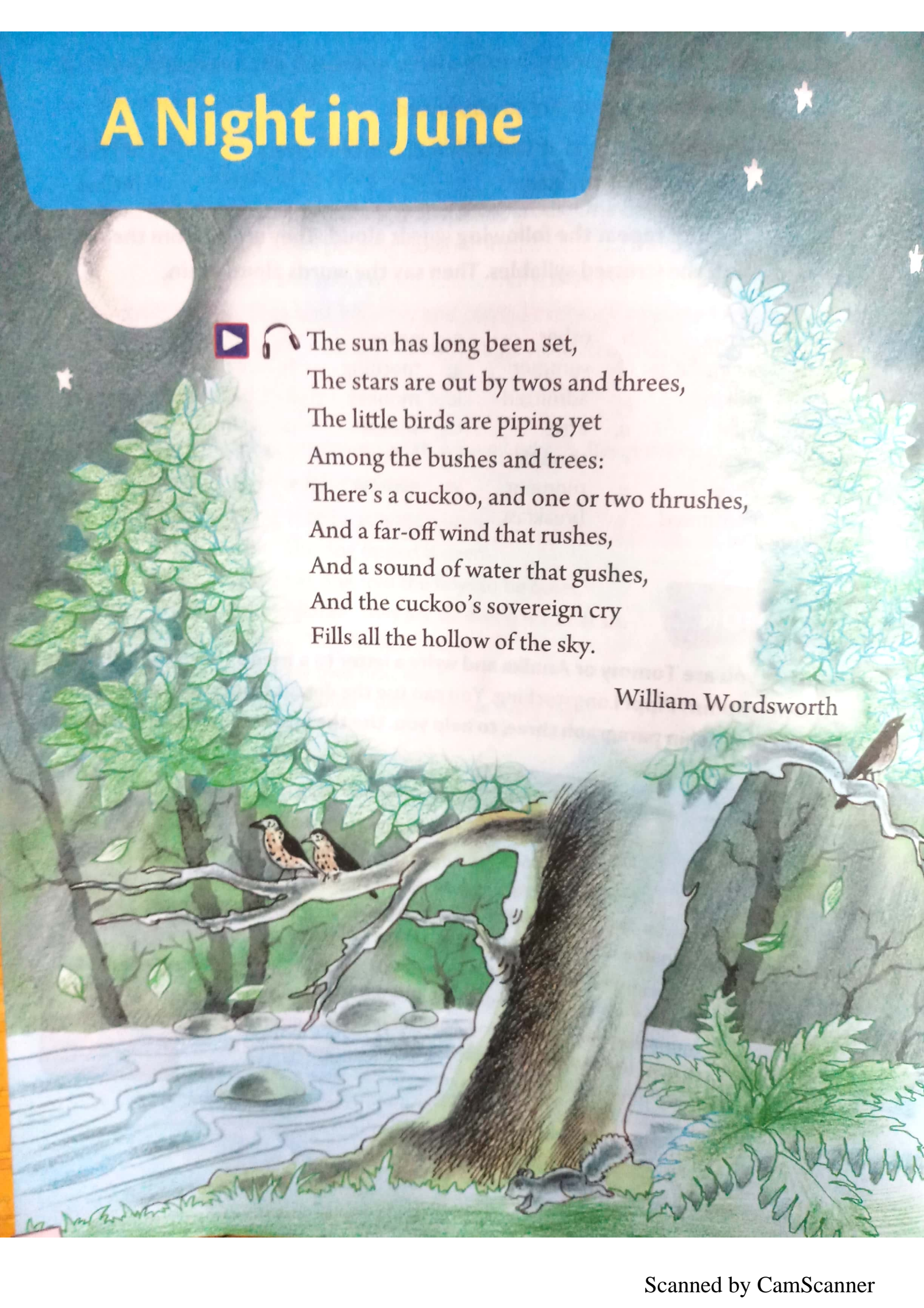




A Night in June



  The sun has long been set,
The stars are out by twos and threes,
The little birds are piping yet
Among the bushes and trees:
There's a cuckoo, and one or two thrushes,
And a far-off wind that rushes,
And a sound of water that gushes,
And the cuckoo's sovereign cry
Fills all the hollow of the sky.

William Wordsworth

ABOUT THE POET

William Wordsworth (1770–1850) was encouraged to read and memorize classic poetry from a young age and began to write his own poems when he was still a child. His poems were popular in his lifetime and he was the Poet Laureate for the last seven years of his life. Many of his poems are about experiencing the beauty of the natural world.

WORDS TO KNOW

cuckoo a type of bird

gushes pours; floods; streams

pipng whistling; twittering; singing

sovereign superior, like that of a ruler

thrush a type of bird

yet still; even now



COMPREHENSION

1. Answer the following questions.

- How are the stars appearing in the sky?
- Have the birds stopped their singing?
- Where are the little birds?
- What sounds can be heard?
- What fills the sky?

These questions are more difficult. Discuss them first.

- Why do you think the stars appear in the way described in the poem?
- Why do you think the poet calls the cuckoo's cry 'sovereign'?

2. Answer the questions about this line from the poem.

The little birds are piping yet

- This sentence means
 - the birds are little, but they are piping.
 - the birds are still piping even though it is late.
 - the birds are piping, but ...

- b. What time of day is it?
- c. Where are the birds piping?
- d. What kinds of birds are mentioned in the poem?

3. Note down the rhyming words in the poem.

4. Do the rhyming words form a pattern?

5. Find the odd one out in each of the following lists.

- | | | | | | | |
|-----------|--------|--------|---------|---------|----------|--------|
| a. set | met | debt | yet | get | eat | threat |
| b. frees | ease | peace | trees | freeze | peas | breeze |
| c. rushes | gushes | bushes | crushes | flushes | thrushes | |
| d. die | sky | cry | fry | high | neigh | buy |

WORKING WITH WORDS

1. Use these words in sentences of your own.

- a. set b. far-off c. among d. gushes e. hollow

2. Use these words in oral sentences of your own. If you are not sure of the exact meaning, look in a dictionary.

- | | | | | | |
|-------|-------|----------|---------|------|------|
| gush | spout | sprinkle | trickle | drip | pour |
| flood | surge | spurt | stream | flow | jet |

TELLING THE TIME

In many parts of the world, especially at airports and stations, people use a twenty-four hour clock. For example, when we say 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. the letters a.m. show that it is in the morning. The letters p.m. tell us that it is after midday. In the twenty-four hour clock we do not stop at midday and go back to one o'clock, but go on to thirteen, fourteen and so on.

We write,

1300 hours for 1 p.m.

1400 hours for 2 p.m. and so on.

3. Write the time using a twenty-four hour clock.

- | | | |
|--------------|-----------|------------|
| a. 3 p.m. | b. 6 a.m. | c. 4 p.m. |
| d. 7:30 p.m. | e. 5 p.m. | f. 10 p.m. |

4. Write the time using a.m. and p.m.

- | | | | |
|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| a. 1200 hours | b. 0900 hours | c. 2230 hours | d. 1645 hours |
|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|



LEARNING ABOUT LANGUAGE

PUNCTUATION

1. Can you write out the following clearly? Separate the words and put a full stop at the end of each sentence.

Alongtimeagopeoplewrotewithoutputtinganybreaksbetweenwordsthismadereading verydifficultyoucanseewhatImeanfromthisexampleitisbettertoseparatethewordsand sentences

USING 'YET'

Yet another exercise.

Read the following sentences:

They still have not arrived. = They have not arrived yet.

2. Use yet and rewrite the following.

- a. The man has still not finished the work.
- b. Prema has still not told her parents.
- c. Manoj has still not left the hospital.
- d. The children have still not eaten their lunch.
- e. The postman has still not brought the letters.



3. Note the following uses of yet.

- a. Have you met the neighbours yet?
- b. He arrived, yet he did not stay long.

Make some sentences like those above.

VERBS

4. Underline the verbs in the following.

- a. Once upon a time there was a man who lived in a village.
- b. One day, in the forest, he was chopping down a tree for his fire.
- c. He felt very hungry in the afternoon and wanted some food.
- d. Suddenly, he saw a black cloud coming towards him.
- e. Heavy rain poured down and the man took shelter under the tree.
- f. Then he noticed the fruit in the tree and ate some.
- g. When the rain stopped, he picked up his axe and went home.

