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**Hutatatma Rajguru Mahavidyalaya, Rajgurunagar**

**Rajgurunagar, Pune- 410505**

**SYBA (CBCS 2019 Pattern)**

**SEMESTER - IV**

**SUBJECT- COMPOLSORY ENGLISH**

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**Topic- poetry**

**Sub Unit- The Rock and the Bubble by Louisa Alcott**

## **‘The Rock and the Bubble’ by Louisa Alcott.**

### **Analysis of the poem**

‘The Rock and the Bubble’ is a poem written by Louisa May Alcott.

The poem is like a fable which contains a story with different creatures and a moral at the end of the story.

In the poem, the poet describes the conversation between a strong old rock in the sea which was standing still for years and a tiny bubble which wants to move forward in the sea. The bubble demands the rock to move aside but the rock states its condition so gently.

The rock being so gigantic and powerful tries to explain to the bubble as to how she can't move aside. The foolish bubble gets so angry and arrogant but finally, it bursts out and disappears.

The moral of the story is revealed through the voice of the birds from the tree who taught their children as to how they are not supposed to be so foolish and arrogant like the bubble and how they are supposed to be so strong but gentle like the rock.

### **QUESTION - ANSWER SECTION**

**a) Who is the speaker? Who is it addressing?**

**Answer:** The bubble is the speaker. It is addressing to the rock.

**(b) What is it asking the addressee to do?**

**Answer:** The bubble is asking the rock to make way for it.

**(c) What does the speaker want to do by the shore?**

**Answer:** The speaker wants to dance with the foam and spray by the shore.

**(d) Write the antonym of the word ‘floating’.**

**Answer:** Grounded

**(e): Describe the rock.**

**Answer:** The bare and brown rock stood in the sea. The waves danced merrily at its feet. The bubble insulted the rock by calling it clumsy. However, the rock kept its cool and was kind and cheerful to the little bubble.

**(f) How does the bubble show its superiority to the brown rock?**

**Answer:** The bubble boasts of how superior it is and better than the clumsy, bare and bare rock by claiming itself to be the fairest thing that floats on the sea. It is proud of its rainbow-robe, the crown of light and its glittering form that is so airy and bright.

**(g)How does the rock react to the bubble's demands?**

**Answer:** The great rock stands straight up in the sea and pleasantly explains to the bubble that it had always been standing there and that its 'sturdy form' had never been 'overthrown'. The rock further explains that neither the air nor the sea have been able to move it. The rock requests the bubble to find another way.

**(h)What happened to the bubble at the end?**

**Answer:** The bubble spoke rudely to the waves and the birds. It foolishly called itself the queen of the ocean. It claimed that the cruel stone could not scare it. It dashed up fiercely with these scornful words and broke. The rock remained steadfast in its place.

**(i)Explain in detail the lesson learned by the birdlings.**

**Answer:** The birds sitting on the tree and the waves were witness to the conversation between the bubble and the rock. They laughed at his foolishness. The bubble spoke rudely to the waves and the birds. When the bubble breaks because of his pride, the sea birds tell their little ones that they must not be like the bubble, 'headstrong, rude and vain seeking one's gain' but rather be like the rock 'steadfast and strong, yet cheerful and kind and firm against the wrong.' The birds tell the little ones that they will be wiser if they follow the lesson learned today by the sea.

**(j)How does the poem demonstrate two contrasting aspects of human behaviour?**

**Answer:** The poem demonstrates the two contrasting aspects of human behaviour in a conversation between the rude bubble and the calm rock. The poem begins with a big brown rock standing up in the sea with the waves merrily dancing at its feet. A little bubble comes sailing by and demands the rock to make way for him to pass. The rock calmly refuses to do so, however, the angry bubble calls itself the queen of the ocean while insulting the rock. As the birds watched, the very next instant the bubble breaks but the rock stands sturdy as it was.