

STUDY COURSE MATERIAL

ENGLISH

SESSION-2020-21

CLASS-V

POEM: BOOKS BY ELEANOR FARJEON

TOPIC: (ENGLISH READER)

POEM:BOOKS



What worlds of wonder are our books!
As one opens them and looks,
New ideas and people rise
In our fancies and our eyes.

The room we sit in melts away
And we find ourselves at play
With someone who, before the end
May become our chosen friend.

Or we sail along the page
To some other land or age.
Here's our body in the chair,
But our mind is over there.

Each book is a magic box
Which with a touch a child unlocks.
In between their outside covers
Books hold all things for their lovers.

❖ ABOUT THE POETESS

Eleanor Farjeon



Farjeon in 1899

ELEANOR FARJEON (13 February 1881- 5 June 1965) was an English author of children's stories and plays, poetry and biographies. She won many literary awards for her work. The **ELEANOR FARJEON AWARD** for children's literature is presented annually in her memory to individuals or organisations that have made an outstanding contribution to children's books. She was the sister of thriller writer **Joseph Jefferson Farjeon**. The poem **Books** speaks about the joy of reading.

Born	Eleanor Farjeon 13 February 1881 Strand, London, England
Died	5 June 1965 (aged 84) Hampstead, London, England
Pen name	Tomfool, Merry Andrew, Chimaera
Nationality	British
Period	1908–58
Genre	Children's literature
Notable works	<i>Morning Has Broken</i>
Notable awards	Carnegie Medal 1955 Hans Christian Andersen Award 1956

Summary of the poem:-

In the poem “Books”, Eleanor Farjeon brings forward the importance of books in a man’s life. She says that books play a wonderful job in our lives. It arises many new ideas in man's life that help him to awake and see the world in a new way. We study or go through a book sitting in a room all alone. But in our thoughts we find ourselves in some other ground where there is some other character as our much loved company. Books take us away to some other land or era/time. As such, physically we are in the chair of our room but mentally we sail out with the words of the book to somewhere unknown. Poetess calls every book a magic box. It’s every touch unlocks a child’s mind. The one who love books can find every turn of the world and his life in its words. He would hardly strive for any other company.

❖ VIDEO LINKS

CLICK HERE TO WATCH THE VIDEO:- <https://youtu.be/bFXyoDSTB5Q>
<https://youtu.be/OQcseLtQKz0>

Word meaning:-

- 1) Fancies- imagination
- 2) Melts away- disappears
- 3) Before the end- soon

❖ SYNONYMS - ANTONYMS

WORD	SYNONYM	ANTONYM
1. Sail	Float	Sink
2. Unlock	Unbolt	Lock
3. Outside	Outdoor	Inside
4. Open	Accessible	Close

❖ ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS-

- 1) ‘The room we sit in melts away’
Why does the room ‘melt away’?

Ans- The poetess believes that once we start reading everything melts or fades away even the room we sit in . We choose books as our friends. These books give us new ideas and we learn a lot from them.

- 2) “And we find ourselves at play
With someone who, before the end,

May become our chosen friend. ”

a) Where does the chosen friend come from?

Ans – The chosen friend comes from the books.