



3.1 Tartary

UNIT 3



If I were Lord of Tartary,
Myself and me alone,
My bed should be of ivory,
Of beaten gold my throne;
And in my court should peacocks flaunt.
And in my forests tigers haunt,
And in my pools great fishes slant
Their fins athwart the sun.

The poem has a dreamy quality. Does the picture reflect it? Discuss the picture with the students.

If I were Lord of Tartary,
Trumpeters every day
To every meal would summon me,
And in my courtyard bray;
And in the evening lamps would shine,
Yellow as honey, red as wine,
While harp, and flute, and mandoline,
Made music sweet and gay.

If I were Lord of Tartary,
I'd wear a robe of beads,
White, and gold, and green they'd be -
And clustered thick as seeds;
And ere should wane the morning-star,
I'd don my robe and scimitar,
And zebras seven should draw my car
Through Tartary's dark glades.

Lord of the fruits of Tartary,
Her rivers silver-pale!
Lord of the hills of Tartary,
Glen, thicket, wood, and dale!
Her flashing stars, her scented breeze,
Her trembling lake like foamless seas,
Her bird-delighting citron-trees
In every purple vale!

- *Walter de la Mare*

ENGLISH WORKSHOP

1. Find the words that mean the following from the first stanza.

- Gold hammered into a flat, thin shape :
- show off proudly :
- tilt, move at an angle :
- across, especially in a slanting direction :

2. Find the names of the exotic musical instruments and animals mentioned in the poem.
3. In the last stanza, there are three four-letter words that refer to a beautiful valley.
They are : • • •
4. From the poem, find three lines that use comparisons.
• • •
5. Colour, sound and images from nature add to the beauty of a poem : ‘Tartary’ is a perfect example of the above. Pick out lines that contain –
 - Colour
 - Sound
 - Images from nature
6. Complete the following phrases with the help of the poem.
 - music • rivers • breeze
 - lake • citron-trees
7. Write about the daily routine of the ‘Lord of Tartary’ in 8-10 lines.
8. Using your imagination, write about a beautiful region – its land forms, water bodies, flora and fauna, night sky, people, etc.
9. Language Study: **Consonance** : **Consonance** is repetition of one or more consonant sounds especially at the end of words. Consonance is usually pleasant to the ear.
Examples : • Pitter-patter, pitter-patter
 - Rivers silver-pale
 - The lint was sent with the tent.
 - All’s well that ends well.
- Find at least two examples of consonance from poems that you study in this book.

