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**STD -6 (English Literature) (2020-21)**

**Questions and answers from the back of the chapter**

**Ch-17 THE WAY THROUGH THE WOODS**

A. Answer the following questions:- (page no. 145)

1. How long ago was the road shut? Why would you not know it was there once?

**Ans.** The road was shut seventy years ago. It would not be known that there was a road because weather and rain have destroyed it. It has got hidden under the coppice and heath.

2. How did the speaker describe the late summer evening?

**Ans.** The speaker described the late summer evening as a peaceful one. There the night air cools above the pools that are full of trout fish and the otter whistles and calls out its mate.

3. Why did the speaker say the badgers roll 'at ease'?

**Ans.** The speaker said so because the badgers rolled comfortably in that lonely forest. They were not afraid of any human presence there.

4. What two things would you hear if you entered the woods on a late summer evening?

**Ans.** The two things that one could hear upon entering the woods on a late summer evening were - the beat of a horse's feet and the swish of a skirt in the dew.

5. Is there an element of the ghostly in the poem? Pick out the lines that establish this and explain how.

**Ans.** Yes, there is an element of eeriness in this poem. "You will hear the beat of a horse's feet", "And the swish of a skirt in the dew" these lines establish a ghostly environment.

The first line creates a sense of creepiness as the horse was not physically present there but still the trampling of the horse could be heard.

The second line is eerie because very few people entered the woods and it was not possible for someone to hear the swishing sound of a skirt.

B. Answer these questions with reference to the context.

1. *They fear not men in the woods,  
Because they see so few*

a. Who are 'they'?

**Ans.** 'They' are the animals in the forest: the ring - doves, the badgers, the trout fish and the otter.

b. Why do 'they' see so few men in the woods?

**Ans.** 'They' see so few men in the woods because nobody enters the forest.

c. Why will 'they' fear men if 'they' see them?

**Ans.** 'They' will fear men because humans would not let them live peacefully.

2. *As though they perfectly knew  
The old lost road through the woods.*

a. Who does 'they' refer to?

**Ans.** 'They' refers to the ghostly presence of the horse and the lady of the bygone days.

b. What does the speaker say 'they' do and what may you hear?

**Ans.** The lady and the horse, referred to as 'they', slowly canter through the misty solitude of the forest. We may hear the beat of the horse's feet and the swish of the skirt.

c. Why do you think the speaker ends the poem this way?

**Ans.** The speaker was sure that there was no road through the woods as he could not find out any evidence though he could feel the presence of the people from the bygone days, who knew the road perfectly.