

# ENGLISH

## CHAPTER 5: WHERE DO ALL THE TEACHERS GO?



## WHERE DO ALL THE TEACHERS GO?

~Summary~

**-by Peter Dixon**

The poem "**Where Do All the Teachers Go?**", by **Peter Dixon** is narrated from a **child's point of view**. The child in the poem has a **list of questions** about his teachers. He begins by asking **relatable questions** like where his teachers go after school hours. He wonders if the teachers have a **house** where they have to perform **daily works** like **washing socks**.

Since he always sees his teachers as a **professional** in class, he wonders if they wear **casual clothing** and **relaxes** while **watching TV**. He talks about **trivial** things that children always do despite adults telling them not to, like **picking one's nose**. He wants to know if the teachers also had **parents** and others they had to obey. He **ponders** if the teachers had a **childhood** where they had faced issues like the **inability to spell words**, or being punished for **pinching chocolate flakes**.

The child further ponders that like normal children his age, if there was a time when the teachers had **hated vegetables**, had a **bad memory**, or lost their **hymn books** during **prayers**, had memories of **scribbling on tops of desks** or worn the same **dirty jean** unwashed. He finally declares that all his questions would be **answered**, as he plans to follow his teacher and spy on lifestyle, make a **poem** out of the answers so that people having **similar questions** could get them answered.





Students and teacher

### ~Conclusion~

The poem Where Do All The Teachers Go is written by Peter Dixon. The poem narrates the imaginations of a child about his teacher. The poem has been written from the point of view of a child. It is different for a small child to think of his/ her teacher as an ordinary person.



## NCERT SOLUTIONS

### Questions (Page No. 68) (Working With the Poem)

Question 1.

- i. Why does the poet want to know where the teachers go at four 'o'clock?
- ii. What are the things normal people do that the poet talks about?
- iii. What does he imagine about
  - a. where teachers live?
  - b. what they do at home?
  - c. the people with whom they live?
  - d. their activities when they were children in school?
- iv. Why does the poet wonder if teachers also do things that other people do?
- v. How does the poet plan to find out? What will he do once he finds out?

Answer:

- i. The poet does not consider teachers as ordinary people. He feels that they are special human beings. Hence, he wants to know where the teachers go at four o'clock and what they do after school hours.
- ii. According to the poet, normal people live in houses, freshen up after returning home, wear pyjamas, wash their clothes, watch TV, live with their parents, make mistakes, lose books, get punished, scribble on their desks, wear old dirty jeans and linen, etc.
- iii.
  - a. He imagines that his teachers live in houses along with their families.
  - b. They wash their socks, wear pyjamas at home, pick on their noses and even watch TV.
  - c. They live with their parents and other family members.

- d. During childhood, even they were bad, made mistakes, spelled a word incorrectly and were punished for eating chocolates in class, they lost their hymn books, scribbled on desk tops or even wore dirty jeans, etc.
- iv. The poet wonders if teachers also do things that other people do because he thinks that they are not ordinary, but special human beings. He assumes that these teachers are always strict, never made any mistakes and are ideal in all respects.
- v. The poet decided to get first hand information of his teachers by following them on the way back home, so that he could find out what they do after reaching home. Once he knows what they do, he plans to compose a poem, which the teachers would then read out to their students.

Question 2. What do you think these phrases from the poem mean?

- a. punished in the corner
- b. leave their greens

Answer:

- a. **punished in the corner:** This phrase means getting caught for a misdeed in class and made to stand in the corner of the classroom as a punishment.
- b. **leave their greens:** Some children leave cooked green vegetables uneaten or throw them into the dustbin. The phrase “leave their greens” in the poem means that teachers eat green vegetables and do not throw them away.

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