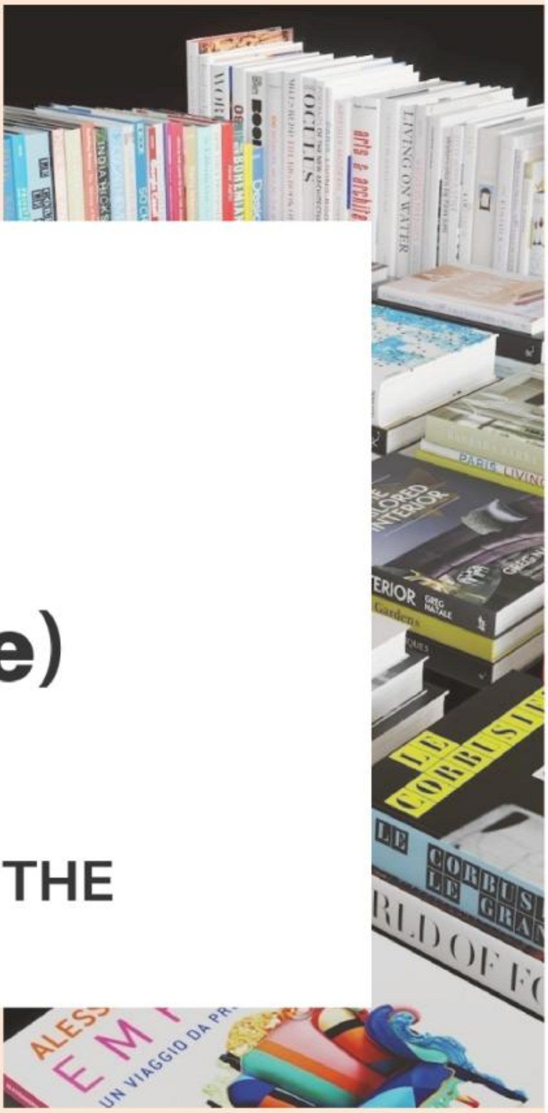

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Class 9 English (Beehive) Notes

A LEGEND OF THE NORTHLAND

Key Notes and Important Questions with Answers

5. A LEGEND OF THE NORTHLAND

Phoebe Cary

- The poem puts forward the idea that one should not be selfish, but always try to be helpful towards the needy.
- A selfish person has no satisfaction in life.
- The poem is about the Northland, which is a very cold region, where nights are longer to days.
- Once Saint Peter stopped at an old Lady's cottage because he was feeling hungry.
- The lady was baking cakes son the hearth. When Saint Peter asked for one of cakes, the lady tried to make a tiny cake for him. But being selfish, she couldn't give it to him.
- Her greedy behaviour annoyed the hungry saint.
- He cursed her and transformed her into a woodpecker.
- All her clothes except her scarlet cap were burnt, as she went up the chimney and flew out of the top.

Read the following extracts and answer the questions that follow :

1. Where they harness the swift reindeer
   To the sledges, when it snows;
   And the children look like bear's cubs
   In their funny, furry clothes :

   Questions :

   a) About which place is the poet talking?
   b) Why do they harness reindeer there?
   c) What kind of clothes do the children wear?
   d) Which figure of speech is used here?

2. And being faint with fasting,
   For the day was almost done
   He asked her, from her stores of cakes,
   To give him a single one.

   Questions :

   a) Who is 'he' in this extract?

b) Why is he about to faint?

c) What does he want?

d) Find a word from the above extract that means the same as 'hunger'.

3. And he said, "you are for too selfish
To dwell in a human farm,
To have both food and shelter,
And fire to keep you warm.
Now, you shall build as the birds do,
And shall get your scanty food
By boring, and boring and boring.

Questions :

a) Name the poem and the poet?

b) Why did Saint Peter get angry?

c) How did he punish the little woman?

d) Which figure of speech is used in the last line of the stanza?