



## The Winner

*-Georgia Heard*

### From text to thought

#### Let's Recall

Match the following phrases with their meanings.

S. No.	Phrase	Meaning
1	catch my breath	to relax after being tired
2	spill the beans	to reveal a secret (or to disclose information by mistake)
3	miss the boat	to lose an opportunity
4	hit the sack	to go to bed/sleep
5	once in a blue moon	to happen very rarely
6	burn the midnight oil	to work late into night
7	cut ties	to end a relationship or ties
8	let the cat out of the sack	to disclose information by mistake (or to reveal a secret)
9	break the ice	to disclose information by mistake (or to reveal a secret)
10	piece of cake	Something very easy to do

### REFERENCE TO THE CONTEXT-

*“Evenings,  
we play ball  
next to the creek  
in our neighbour’s field.”*

- 1. Who is the poet of the above lines?**  
Georgia Heard.
- 2. What time of the day is mentioned in the above lines?**  
Evenings are mentioned in the lines.
- 3. Where do they play?**  
Neighbour’s field.
- 4. Which game do they play?**  
They play ball game.
- 5. Give the meaning of the word ‘creek’ and use it in a sentence of your own.**  
A creek  
*Sentence:* We spent the afternoon skipping stones across the shallow creek.

## THINK AND ANSWER–

Answer the following questions briefly.

**1. Which lines in the poem tell you that it is night time?**

The lines that indicate it is night time are: “When blue dark turns to black, cold grass aches our feet, trees creep close- game’s over. Night wins!” The “blue dark turns to black” signifies the onset of night, which then “wins” the day.

**2. When do the children stop playing?**

The children stop playing when the blue evening dark turns to black, and the game is over as night arrives.

**3. Why can’t the speaker catch his breath?**

The speaker runs so fast while playing that she becomes breathless due to the intense physical activity and excitement.

**4. How do the children feel while playing on the grass?**

The children feel excited and completely absorbed in their game while playing on the grass. Later, as it gets cold and dark, the “cold grass aches” their feet, suggesting they feel a physical discomfort signaling it is time to go home.

Answer the following question in 100-120 words.

**1. In the poem, the children spend their evenings playing outdoors till nightfall. Compare this with the lifestyle of today’s children who spend most of their time on screens. What values or lessons can we learn from outdoor play, and why is it important for a balanced life?**

The children in “The Winner” experience the simple, physical joy of playing ball outdoors, unconstrained by time except for the natural transition from evening to night. Their play involves running “so fast” that they are breathless, engaging all their senses with the “creek” and the “cold grass”. This contrasts sharply with the contemporary lifestyle of children often tethered to screens, where interaction is digital and physical movement is minimal. Outdoor play teaches invaluable lessons that screen time often misses. It fosters physical health through vigorous activity, which builds stamina and coordination. It encourages social skills like cooperation, negotiation, and teamwork (e.g., playing a ball game in a neighbor’s field). Unlike structured screen time, outdoor play sparks creativity and imagination as children engage with their natural environment. The transition from evening to night in the poem highlights the importance of being attuned to natural rhythms and the physical world. For a balanced life, incorporating outdoor play is crucial as it promotes holistic development—physically, socially, and emotionally—helping children build resilience and a connection to nature that screens cannot replicate.

## GRAMMAR–

*I Rearrange the following words to frame meaningful sentences.*

**1. newspaper / read / I / every / the / morning**

I read the newspaper every morning.

**2. loves / she / nature / animals / and**

She loves nature and animals.

**3. India / history / has / rich / a / culture / and**

India has a rich history and culture.

**4. is / he / working / at / moment / the / present**

He is working at the present moment.

**5. you / find / difficult / do / this / task / think / I**

Do you find it difficult to do this task

*II The following paragraph has not been edited. There is one error in each line. Underline the*

*The soccer teams are practising their new strategy for the big game on Saturday. (a) **are** → **is***

*They will try to kick the ball on the net as many times as they can.*

*(b) **There** → **Their**;*

*There coach gives them good advice before each practice.*

*(c) **give** → **gives***

*Everyone on the team practised very hard, and they are excited for the game. (d) **practiced** → **practices***

**Activity 1: Victory Path Drawing**

To be completed independently by the students.

**Activity 2: True Success Note**

To be completed independently by the students.