

MYSTERY OF THE TALKING FAN

Explanation/summary and question answers



- ***Explanation of the Poem*** – Once upon a time, the poet Maude Rubin had an electrical fan. It might have been old, as it wasn't properly oiled. Due to that, the electrical fan made mysterious electric noises. The poet, who might have been young at that time, thought that the noises meant that the electrical fan was talking, which is why she has referred to it as a 'talking fan' in her poem. She writes that the talking fan's chatter was electrical, which indicates that there was something stuck in the motor which made noises issued from the machine. The poet thought the noises to be mysterious and would try to find out what the fan meant to say. However, she couldn't do so, which is why she says that she hopes that the noises didn't matter. She hopes for such a thing because she regrets not being able to solve the mystery of the talking fan. The poet says that one day, someone oiled the fast and circular moving motor so that the machine would work noiselessly. Ever since then, no noise had been produced by the mysterious talking fan, which ended or spoiled its mystery before it was complete. It then worked as noiselessly as stagnant or still water.

Read the extract given below and answer the following questions:-

I couldn't quite hear what he said
And I hope it doesn't matter
Because one day somebody oiled
His little whirling motor
And all the mystery was spoiled.

- 1.What was the connection between the motor and the fan's Chatter?
- 2.What was troubling the talking fan?
- 3.What does the phrase, "he ran as still as Water" mean?

Write answers to the following questions in your own words.

- 1.What do you think the talking fan was demanding?
- 2.How does an electric fan managed to throw so much air when it is switched on?

