

A Concrete Example

Section A – Choose the Correct Option.

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What is unusual about Mrs. Jones's garden?
A. It has no plants
C. It has only trees 2. What does the phrase "crazy path" suggest?
A. A straight path
C. An unusual or irregular path 3. Why does the poet say that the plants could be planted with a pin?
A. They are very colourful
C. They are extremely small 4. What does the strange sundial reveal about Mrs. Jones?
A. She dislikes gardening.
C. She is fascinated by unusual things. 5. What is humorous about the ending of the poem?
A. The speaker cannot find Mrs. Jones.
B. The speaker discovers that he is standing on the flower.
C. Mrs. Jones removes all the stones.
D. The flower disappears from the garden. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> B. It is full of stones
D. It is very large B. A newly built path
D. A dangerous path B. They are very expensive
D. They are difficult to grow B. She likes traditional objects.
D. She does not care about her garden. |
|--|--|

Section B – Write True or False.

1. Mrs. Jones has a garden full of stones. _____
2. Mrs. Jones dislikes the strange sundial in her garden. _____
3. The plants in the garden are described as delicate and small. _____
4. The speaker immediately notices the flower he is looking for. _____
5. The poem uses humour to describe Mrs. Jones and her unusual garden. _____

Section C – Choose the correct answer from the brackets.

1. The phrase "lily pond" helps readers imagine the _____ of Mrs. Jones's garden.
(beauty and variety / lack of plants)
2. The description of the "tiny" and "delicate" plants highlights their _____.
(small size / bright colours)
3. The poet's description of the garden creates a _____ tone.
(humorous / serious)
4. The repeated phrase "My next-door neighbour, Mrs. Jones" draws attention to the _____ of the character.
(importance / unimportance)
5. The poet's description of Mrs. Jones's garden suggests that she has a _____ approach to gardening.
(traditional / unconventional)

Section D – Answer the Following Questions in 30–40 words.

1. Why does Mrs. Jones invite the speaker to see her stones?

Ans. _____

2. How does the poet use humour to describe Mrs. Jones's garden?

Ans. _____

3. What does the sundial with a strange device tell us about Mrs. Jones?

Ans. _____

4. Why is the speaker surprised when Mrs. Jones tells him that he is standing on the flower?

Ans. _____

5. How does the poem show that something ordinary or unnoticed can be special to another person?

Ans. _____

Section E – Answer the following in 80–100 words.

1. Describe Mrs. Jones's personality based on her garden and her interaction with the speaker. How does the poet present her as an unusual yet likeable person?

Ans. _____

2. How does Reginald Arkell use humour, imagery and irony in "A Concrete Example" to make the poem interesting? Support your answer with suitable examples from the poem.

Ans. _____

Section F – Read the extract and answer the questions that follow.

"My next-door neighbour, Mrs. Jones,
puts little plants between the stones
They are so delicate and small,
they don't mean anything at all.
I can't think how she gets them in,
unless she plants them with a pin."

1. What does the description of the plants tell us about Mrs. Jones's gardening habits?

Ans. _____

2. Identify whether the following statement is True or False.

- Mrs. Jones gives importance to even the smallest plants in her garden.

Ans. _____

3. What does the phrase "delicate and small" suggest about the plants?

Ans. _____

4. Why does the poet humorously say that Mrs. Jones might plant the tiny plants "with a pin"?

Ans. _____

5. Which quality of Mrs. Jones is revealed through her care for the tiny plants?

- A. Carelessness
- B. Patience and love for gardening
- C. Disinterest in nature
- D. Fear of plants

Ans. _____

Section G – Complete the Sentences Appropriately

- The description of the "crazy path" suggests that Mrs. Jones's garden has an _____ design.
- The words "delicate and small" are used to describe the _____ in the garden.
- The poet's description of the garden creates a _____ and playful mood.
- Mrs. Jones's interest in the tiny plants shows her _____ for nature.
- The speaker's discovery that he is standing on the flower creates a _____ effect.

Section H – Vocabulary

1. Choose the appropriate word from the brackets.

- A crazy path, a lily pond.
(unusual, ordinary, straight, simple, narrow)
- Mrs. Jones puts little plants between the stones.
(tiny, huge, tall, large, broad)
- They are so small.
(minute, massive, enormous, giant, broad)
- We stood and talked about a flower.
(discussed, argued, whispered, complained, announced)
- "You're standing on it," she replied.
(resting, sitting, walking, lying, jumping)

2. Replace the underlined word with a suitable synonym.

- Mrs. Jones has a strange device. – _____
- The plants are delicate. – _____
- It is a lovely flower. – _____
- She has a crazy path. – _____
- They talked about a flower. – _____

Section I – Word Formation: Replace only the first letter of the given word light to create a new word according to the hint.

Given Word	Hint
a. fight	i. A struggle
b. _____	ii. To be likely to do something
c. _____	iii. The opposite of day
d. _____	iv. Correct or opposite of wrong
e. _____	v. The ability to see or notice something
f. _____	vi. Something that helps us see in the dark.

Section J – Poetic Devices: Identify the poetic device used in each example.

1. “My next-door neighbour, Mrs. Jones” is repeated at the beginning of the stanzas.
Ans. _____
2. “Where is this lovely thing?” / “You’re standing on it.” creates an unexpected humorous situation.
Ans. _____
3. “delicate and small” helps readers picture the tiny plants.
Ans. _____
4. The description of the garden helps readers form a picture in their minds.
Ans. _____
5. The repeated use of “stones” highlights an important feature of the garden.
Ans. _____

Section K – Speaking Activity: Apologising and Responding

1. Informal Apologies: Complete the following dialogues using suitable expressions.

You: I’m really sorry for eating your share of sweets.
 Brother: _____.
 You: Please forgive me for breaking your flower craft.
 Sister: _____.
 You: I’m sorry about spilling ink on your important documents.
 Mother: _____.
 You: Sorry, I didn’t mean to forget your notebook.
 Friend: _____.
 You: _____.
 Friend: That’s alright. It’s no big deal.
 Situation: You forgot to return your friend’s storybook.

2. Formal Apologies: Complete the following dialogues using suitable formal expressions.

Student: I’m extremely sorry for not bringing my assignment today.
 Teacher: _____.
 Student: I owe you an apology for being late to school for the past three days.
 Principal: _____.
 Student: I really regret not submitting my project work on time.
 Teacher: _____.
 Student: _____.
 Teacher: I accept your apology. Please ensure you submit it tomorrow.
 Situation: You forgot to submit your homework.
 Student: _____.
 Principal: I appreciate you saying this, but please ensure that you follow the school rules in future.

Section L – Creative Response: Answer the following.

1. Imagine that you are the speaker. Write two sentences describing your reaction after discovering that you were standing on the flower.

Ans. _____

2. If you had a garden like Mrs. Jones, what unusual feature would you add? Give a reason.

Ans. _____

3. Write two qualities that you admire in Mrs. Jones.

Ans. _____

4. Write one sentence explaining the title "A Concrete Example."

Ans. _____

5. Write a suitable alternative title for the poem.

Ans. _____

Section M – Understanding Puns.

1. Identify the word or phrase that creates the pun.

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|--|---------|
| a. The gardener said, "I have a growing interest in plants." | – _____ |
| b. The flower was very popular because it had a lot of fans. | – _____ |
| c. The gardener decided to branch out and try new gardening ideas. | – _____ |
| d. The tree decided to leaf the garden before the storm. | – _____ |
| e. The gardener was rooting for his plants to grow well. | – _____ |

2. Explain the two meanings or humorous effect in each sentence.

- a. The gardener decided to branch out into new gardening ideas.

Ans. _____

- b. The students were rooting for their team during the competition.

Ans. _____

- c. The plant was growing on the gardener.

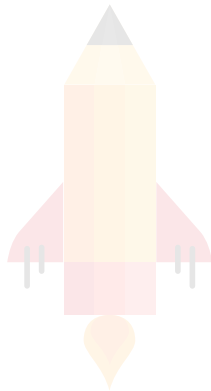
Ans. _____

- d. The flower had many fans in the garden.

Ans. _____

- e. The tree decided to leaf the garden.

Ans. _____



Answers Key

Section A – Choose the Correct Option

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|---|---|
| 1. B. It is full of stones | 2. C. An unusual or irregular path |
| 3. C. They are extremely small | 4. C. She is fascinated by unusual things |
| 5. B. The speaker discovers that he is standing on the flower | |

Section B – True or False

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|---------|----------|---------|----------|---------|
| 1. True | 2. False | 3. True | 4. False | 5. True |
|---------|----------|---------|----------|---------|

Section C – Choose the Correct Answer

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|-----------------------|---------------|-------------|---------------|
| 1. beauty and variety | 2. small size | 3. humorous | 4. importance |
| 5. unconventional | | | |

Section D – Short Answers

- Mrs. Jones invites the speaker to see her stones because she is proud of her unusual garden and wants to share her interest in gardening with him.
- The poet uses humour by describing a garden full of stones, tiny plants that seem small enough to be planted with a pin, and an unusual sundial.
- The strange sundial shows that Mrs. Jones has an unusual taste and is fascinated by peculiar and interesting objects in her garden.
- The speaker is surprised because he cannot find the lovely flower. Mrs. Jones humorously tells him that he is already standing on it.
- The poem shows that people appreciate things differently. The tiny flower seems unimportant to the speaker, but Mrs. Jones considers it special and valuable.

Section E – Long Answers

- Mrs. Jones is an unusual, creative and enthusiastic woman. Her garden is full of stones, a crazy path, a lily pond, a rockery and a strange sundial. She also carefully plants tiny and delicate plants between the stones. Her interest in even the smallest plants shows her love for gardening. She invites the speaker to see her stones and happily discusses a flower with him. Her unusual tastes, friendliness and sense of humour make her a likeable and memorable character.
- Reginald Arkell uses humour, imagery and irony to make the poem interesting. Imagery helps readers picture Mrs. Jones's unusual garden with its stones, lily pond, rockery and sundial. Humour appears when the poet says that the tiny plants could be planted with a pin. The ending uses irony when the speaker asks where the flower is and Mrs. Jones tells him that he is standing on it. These devices make the poem amusing and memorable.

Section F – Extract

- The description shows that Mrs. Jones is patient, careful and passionate about gardening. She takes care of even the smallest plants.
- True
- "Delicate and small" suggests that the plants are tiny, fragile and difficult to notice among the stones.
- The poet humorously says this to exaggerate how extremely tiny the plants are and to make the description amusing.
- B. Patience and love for gardening

Section G – Complete the Sentences

- | | | | | |
|------------|-----------|-------------|---------|-------------|
| 1. unusual | 2. plants | 3. humorous | 4. love | 5. humorous |
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Section H – Vocabulary

- Choose the appropriate word

a. unusual	b. tiny	c. minute	d. discussed	e. walking
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- Synonyms

a. peculiar	b. fragile	c. beautiful	d. unusual	e. discussed
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Section I – Word Formation

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|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| 1. fight | 2. might | 3. night | 4. right | 5. sight |
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Section J – Poetic Devices

1. Refrain / Repetition 2. Irony 3. Imagery 4. Imagery 5. Repetition

Section K – Speaking Activity

1. Informal Apologies

- That's alright. It's no big deal.
- No problem. These things happen.
- That's alright. It was an accident.
- No problem. It's alright.
- I'm really sorry for forgetting to return your storybook. I'll bring it tomorrow.

2. Formal Apologies

- I accept your apology. Please ensure you bring the assignment tomorrow.
- I appreciate you saying this, but please ensure you arrive at school on time.
- I'm glad you realised your mistake. Please ensure you submit your project work soon.
- I'm extremely sorry for forgetting to submit my homework.
- I really regret talking during the school assembly.

Section L – Creative Response

1. I felt extremely sorry and embarrassed when I realised I was standing on the flower. I apologised to Mrs. Jones for not noticing it.
2. I would add a butterfly garden because it would make the garden colourful and attract beautiful butterflies.
3. Patience and creativity.
4. The title refers to the concrete stones in the garden and gives a clear example of Mrs. Jones's unusual gardening style.
5. Mrs. Jones's Unusual Garden

Section M – Understanding Puns

1. Identify the Pun

- a. growing b. fans c. branch out d. leaf e. rooting

2. Explain the Puns

- "Branch out" means to try new ideas and also refers to the branches of a plant.
- "Rooting for" means supporting the team and also refers to the roots of plants.
- "Growing on" means becoming more liked and also refers to the growth of a plant.
- "Fans" means admirers and also suggests devices that produce air for the flowers.
- "Leaf" sounds like "leave", meaning to go away, while a leaf is also a part of a tree.

