

PBS Lesson Series

ELA, Grade 4, Lesson 14

Teacher Packet

“The Echoing Green” by William Blake

Repeating Details

“The Echoing Green” by William Blake

The Sun does arise,
And make happy the skies.
The merry bells ring,
To welcome the Spring,
The sky-lark and thrush,
The birds of the bush,
Sing louder around,
To the bells cheerful sound,
While our sports shall be seen
On the Echoing Green.

“The Echoing Green” by William Blake

Old John with white hair
Does laugh away care,
Sitting under the oak,
Among the old folk.
They laugh at our play,
And soon they all say,
Such, such were the joys,
When we all, girls & boys,
In our youth time were seen,
On the Echoing Green.

“The Echoing Green” by William Blake

Till the little ones weary
No more can be merry
The sun does descend,
And our sports have an end:
Round the laps of their mothers,
Many sisters and brothers,
Like birds in their nest,
Are ready for rest:
And sport no more seen,
On the darkening Green.

Guided Practice

In “The Echoing Green,” William Blake’s theme is cycles are part of life. Blake used many examples to support this theme. One group of examples that Blake used was cycles of a day. He started the poem by describing the sun rising and ended with the sun setting. In stanzas one and two, Blake described life during the day on the Green by describing the actions of the birds and children and by calling the Green an “Echoing Green.” He then showed the difference in the Green in the evening during stanza three. He used words like weary to describe the children and darkening to describe the Green.

Independent Practice

Write a paragraph explaining how William Blake developed the theme in the poem, “The Echoing Green.” Be sure to use specific examples from the poem, include an illustration and conclusion to your paragraph, and consider how you will link your thoughts together.

Creative Assignment: Illustrate the theme – *cycles are part of life.*