WIND
SUMMARY
The present poetry piece "Wind" has been composed by Subramania Bharti. This poem consists of a total of 23 lines. These lines are not separated into stanzas. Here they are divided into meaningful segments for ease of comprehension.

Subramania Bharati has drawn the living picture of wind which makes fun of the weak people or things. The poet teaches us how we should stand against our oppressors. In the poem he presents the wind-God who destroys everything weak. He wonders why the mighty God is fond of poking fun only with the weak. The poet therefore advises the weak (like him) to make them strong. He suggests them to be strong physically and mentally. Actually the wind is the symbol of difficulties or obstacles that humans have to face for their survival.

The poem can be summarized in following ways to prove the fact represented by Subramania Bharti:

- Violence and destruction - Although the poet requests the wind to blow gently but it does not accept the plea. The wind blows violently and causes destruction.
- Result of storm - The wind breaks the shutters of weak windows. It scatters the papers and throws down books on the shelves.
- Fun of almighty wind God - The poet has regarded wind as God. He says that he makes fun of the weak persons and things. The fast blowing wind destructs weak houses, weak doors and weak bodies.
- Suggestion - Subramania Bharti suggests us to build strong houses and strong doors. We must be healthy physically and mentally. It will help the wind to be friend.

To sum up the poem, people with strong physique and mind are able to stand and face odds or obstacles of life.

DETAILED SUMMARY (FOR READING ONLY)

Lines 1-4:
Wind, come softly.
Don’t break the shutters of the windows.
Don’t scatter the papers.
Don’t throw down the books on the shelf.
In these lines, the poet directly talks to the wind. In fact, he makes an entreaty to the wind. He asks the wind not to break down the shutters of the windows. The shutters are the only thing that separate man from the stormy environment outside, so in a way the poet is asking the wind for protection. He also asks the wind not to scatter the papers in his room, or to throw down the books from his bookshelves. It is pertinent for him to care about papers and books, and for them to be the first things in his room that he doesn’t want disorganized, because he is a writer. Perhaps some of these papers also contain drafts of poems like this one, hence they are very important to him, and he cannot afford to lose them.

Lines 5-7:
There, look what you did – you threw them all down.
You tore the pages of the books.
You brought rain again.
In these lines, the poet continues speaking to the wind. However, the tone he now uses to address the wind has changed from the tone he had been using in the first four lines of the poem. Here he takes on an accusatory tone. He gestures towards the mess in his room, and tells the wind that it is he who is responsible for it. He shows the wind how he has thrown all the books down from the bookshelves with his force, and torn pages out of those books as well. However, the poet does not restrict his vision only to the inside of his house. Casting his gaze outside, he also accuses the wing of having brought a bout of rainfall with himself while approaching the poet’s house.

Lines 8-12:
You’re very clever at poking fun at weaklings.
Frail crumbling houses, crumbling doors, crumbling rafters, crumbling wood, crumbling bodies, crumbling lives,
In these lines, the poet keeps speaking to the wind. Now his tone has once again undergone a change. While it is still accusatory, it has also become somber to some extent. The poet tells the wind that he makes mischief whenever he comes face to face with anyone who is too meek and mild to protest against his actions. The wind can tear down the doors, the rafters, or entire wooden houses altogether. This is the wind’s overt action – leaving people without a roof over their heads, or walls to keep them sheltered from the harsh world outside. However, the wind also has a covert action. To understand what the poet is talking about at this point you can think back to how many Indian vernacular languages have a phrase about the wind blowing over someone’s life and leaving a trail of disasters behind. What such an idiom implies is that the troubles we face in life come as suddenly as the wind, and also leave in the same sudden way. Hinting at this, the poet says that the wind can tear down weak bodies, and fragile hearts. That is, difficulties in life can lead to a loss of hope, as well as a loss of life. Whether such things will happen or not is all up to the wind god, says the poet.

Lines 13-15:
He won’t do what you tell him.
So, come, let’s build strong homes,
Let’s join the doors firmly.
In these lines, the poet stops speaking to the wind, and starts speaking to his readers. He tells his readers that the wind does not listen to anybody, and that his actions are governed by him alone. Therefore, we cannot escape the ill effects of the wind by appealing to the wind like he has been doing. Instead, we should build our homes on a strong foundation, and ensure that our doors cannot be easily penetrated in order to save ourselves from the wind.

Lines 16-18:
Practise to firm the body.
Make the heart steadfast.
Do this, and the wind will be friends with us.
In these lines, the poet outlines some other ways in which his readers can save themselves from the wind. He says that we must make ourselves strong, both physically and mentally. We must train our bodies and our hearts to combat against and resist the ill effects of the wind. If we are able to do this, then the poet thinks that we will no longer consider the wind an enemy. Instead the wind will invite us to become his friend, and we will be able to fearlessly accept his invitation.

Lines 19-20:
The wind blows out weak fires.
He makes strong fires roar and flourish.
In these lines, the poet describes how the wind has both bad effects and good effects. In order to elucidate on the bad effects of the wind, he shows how the wind can blow out a fire if it is glowing with a weak force. However, if the fire is burning strongly, then the wind will not blow it out, but make it fiercer. Thus the wind can nurture that which is already strong.

Lines 21-23:
His friendship is good.
We praise him every day.
Wind, come softly.
In these lines, the poet comes to a conclusion after weighing both the bad effects and the good effects of the wind. He says that if we are strong, then the wind is a good friend for us to have, for he will increase our strength. He also says that we should sing our devotion to the wind god on a daily basis. Finally, he asks for the wind to come to him softly. This may seem a bit cautious of him, but shows that he has thought out his address to the wind very well. He knows how the wind can strengthen him, but also knows that he must not overestimate his own strength or disrespect the wind god. To prevent himself from doing either, he asks the wind to come to him in a gentle manner.
Ques) Read the extracts and answer the following questions

Stanza 1
Wind, come softly.
Don’t break the shutters of the windows.
Don’t scatter the papers.
Don’t throw down the books on the shelf.
There, look what you did – you threw them all down.
You tore the pages of the books.
You brought rain again.

(a) How does the poet want the wind to behave?
The poet wants the wind to behave softly and peacefully, without breaking his shutters, without
scattering the papers and without throwing down the books on the shelf.

(b) What is the poet’s tone?
The poet’s tone is authoritative. He is not pleading to the wind. He commands the wind to come swiftly.

(c) What has the wind done to the poet?
The wind has broken the shutters of the poet’s windows, scattered the pages on which he writes and
threw down the books on his shelf.

(d) What do you know about the poet’s areas of interest from the stanza?
He is a writer. Perhaps some of these papers also contain drafts of poems like this one, hence they
are very important to him, and he cannot afford to lose them.

Stanza 2
You’re very clever at poking fun at weaklings.
Frail crumbling houses, crumbling doors,
Crumbling rafters, crumbling wood, crumbling bodies,
Crumbling lives, crumbling hearts.

(a) Is the poet praising the wind in the second stanza? Why do you think so?
No, the poet is not praising the wind by enumerating its activities. On the contrary, he is poking fun of
the wind by asserting that it is too weak and afraid to fight with the strong ones. He blames that the wind
overpowers only the weaklings.

(b) The poet is presenting the India during the British rule. Comment.
During the British rule from 1600 to 1947, Indians were much similar to the weakling the poet is
presenting in the poem. Indians felt inferior in front of the mighty British. The mighty British ruled the
weak Indians because the latter were weak and unorganized. When Indians requested the British to have
pity, the British grew more dominating until the weak began its struggle against the strong.

(c) What does ‘crumbling hearts’ refer to?
‘Crumbling hearts’ refer to fragile hearts. The poet is talking about the wind blowing over
someone’s life and leaving a trail of disasters behind. What such an idiom implies is that the
troubles we face in life come as suddenly as the wind, and also leave in the same sudden way.
Hinting at this, the poet says that the wind can tear down weak bodies, and fragile hearts.

Stanza 4
Do this, and the wind will be friends with us.
The wind blows out weak fires.
He makes strong fires roar and flourish.
His friendship is good.
We praise him every day. wind, come softly.

(a) With whom does wind become friendly?
Wind becomes friendly with fires that are not ready to give up.

(b) What happens to strong fires when wind blows into them?
Strong fires become stronger every time wind blow into them.
(c) **In what sense is the friendship of wind good?**

Wind and its friendship is good because wind is able to make us strong. The more the wind blows on us, we try to resist and every time we resist, we become stronger.

(d) **What does this poem teach you personally?**

The poem teaches us a great lesson. In the society or in schools we meet people who are more powerful than us. If we are too weak in front of them, they tend to overpower us some way.

**TEXTBOOK QUESTIONS (Write all except Ques 2)**

1. **What are the things the wind does in the first stanza?**
   **Answer** In the first stanza, the wind shutters breaks the shutters of the windows, scatters the papers, throws down the books from the shelf, tears the pages of the books and brings showers of rain.

2. **Have you seen anybody winnow grain at home or in a paddy field? What is the word in your language for winnowing? What do people use for winnowing? (Give the words in your language, if you know them.)**
   **Answer** Yes, I have seen many women winnowing grain in villages. *Pachhorana* is the word in my language for winnowing. People use *chaaj* or winnowing fan for winnowing purpose.

3. **What does the poet say the wind god winnows?**
   **Answer** The poet says that the wind god winnows the weak crumbling houses, doors, rafters, wood, bodies, lives and hearts, and then crushes them all.

4. **What should we do to make friends with the wind?**
   **Answer** To make friends with wind we need to build strong homes with firm doors. We should also make ourselves physically and mentally strong by building strong, firm bodies and having steadfast hearts.

5. **What do the last four lines of the poem mean to you?**
   **Answer** In the last four lines, the poet inspires us to face the wind, which symbolises the hardships of our lives, courageously. He tells us that the wind can only extinguish the weak fires; it intensifies the stronger ones. Similarly, adversities deter the weak-hearted but make stronger those who have unfaltering will. In such a case, befriending the wind or the hardships of life makes it easier for us to face them.

6. **How does the poet speak to the wind — in anger or with humour? You must also have seen or heard of the wind “crumbling lives”. What is your response to this? Is it like the poet’s?**
   **Answer** The poet speaks to the wind with anger.

Yes, strong winds are known to cause plenty of damage and destruction to both life and property. Storms, cyclones, gales and strong winds cause havoc on land. They uproot trees, bring down houses, tear down electric posts and claim lives. They also cause damage to boats and frighten the poor sailors and fishermen out at sea.

Yet, I do not agree with the poet that the wind only 'crumbles lives'. The wind is responsible for bringing rain; it cools the land and makes the climate pleasant.

Today, wind energy is harnessed for several useful purposes including turning windmills, wind turbines and generating electricity.