

Father Peter Gilligan was an old parish priest. It was a time of epidemics in his area of parish. Parishioners was very ill of this disease. Though the father has the responsibility to make service of funeral and all.

Thus, he was very tired. There came a poor man in a tired evening. He was very sad and said the situation of his relative. Because of the tiredness Fr. Gilligan slept on his chair complaining to god about his situation. He was weary and asked god to forgive. It make father sleepy.

Fr. Gilligan was in sleep. Suddenly he stood upright on the floor. He suddenly spoke out that "Alas! The man has died while I slept in the chair." At that time itself he get off his horse and rode into the man's house. Through the rocky lane and fen he reached the man's house. The man's wife opened the door and asked why

did you come again. There asked father is the man dead. They replied yes and described the situation happened there. The father was amazed and thought god is with him.

god covered the land with darkness and whispered to mankind. Early morning, father Gilligan stoop up and rode horse to the sick man's house. There happened the god's miracle. The guardian asked why you again came. This confused father. Then released the god's help.

In this poem, the rhyme scheme is abcb. This contains numbers of poetic devices. Simile is mostly used. Allegory is also used.

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## Activity 1

Answer the questions by choosing the most appropriate answer from the options given.

- i. The people of Father Gilligan's parish were \_\_\_\_\_.
- a) toiling in the field      b) suffering from an epidemic  
c) celebrating Easter      d) nodding their chairs
- ii. The old priest was \_\_\_\_\_.
- a) energetic      b) weary      c) fresh      d) angry
- iii. Mavrone means \_\_\_\_\_. (mistake)
- a) My dear one      b) An expression of sorrow  
c) God bless you      d) God be with you
- iv. Father Gilligan awoke with a start, realising that he had not \_\_\_\_\_.
- a) done his duty      b) roused his horse  
c) finished his homework      d) said his prayers
- v. The word 'flock' in the context of the poem means:
- a) a flock of sheep      b) sparrows  
c) stars in the sky      d) people in the parish
- vi. Who is 'wrapped in purple robes'?
- a) Father Gilligan      b) The stars      c) God      d) Sparrows
- vii. The expression 'green sods' refers to
- a) graves covered over by green grass      b) the stars in the sky  
c) the people in the parish      d) God's angels
- viii. What is referred to as 'moth-hour of eve'?
- a) dawn      b) noon      c) evening      d) the night of stars

How does Yeats describe the character of Father Gilligan in the poem?

Complete the following word web.

