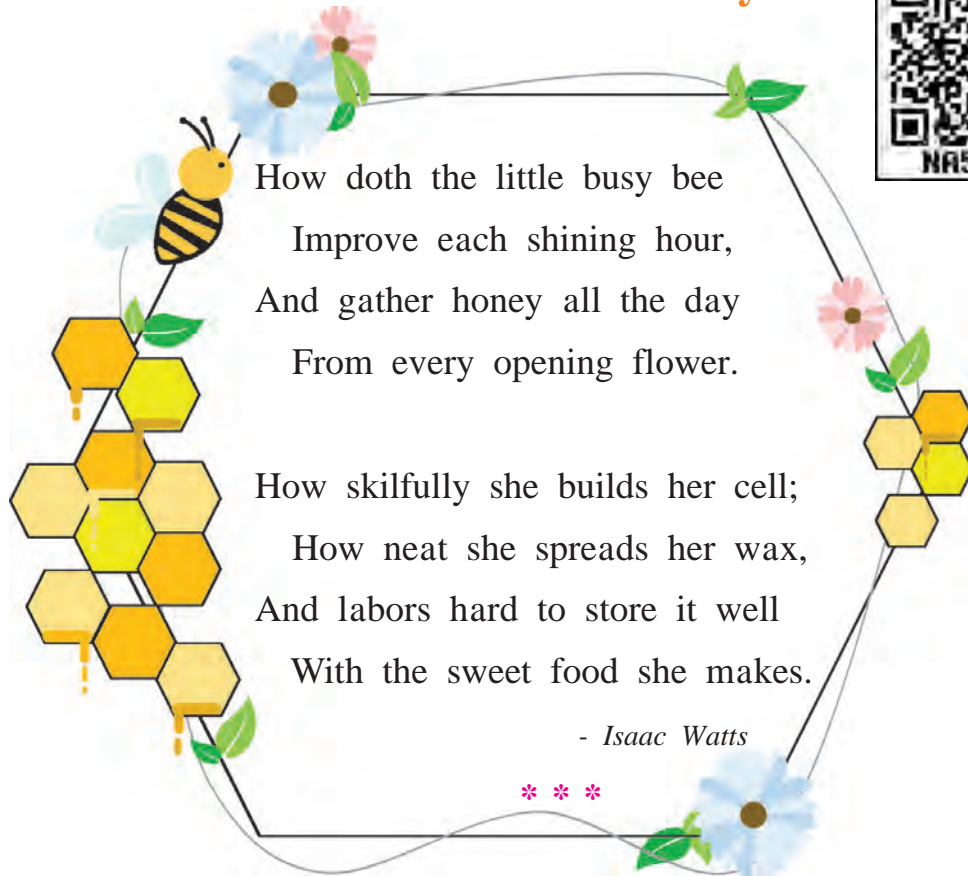


2.4 How doth the little busy bee



How doth the little busy bee
Improve each shining hour,
And gather honey all the day
From every opening flower.

How skilfully she builds her cell;
How neat she spreads her wax,
And labors hard to store it well
With the sweet food she makes.

- Isaac Watts

* * *

A Parody



How doth the little crocodile
Improve his shining tail;
And pour the waters of the Nile
On every golden scale!

How cheerfully he seems to grin,
How neatly spreads his claws,
And welcomes little fishes in,
With gently smiling jaws!

- Lewis Carroll

* * *



- Write the meaning of :
 - doth • opening (in the context of the poem) • cell
- A parody is playful, comic imitation of a writer's style. A parody is like a verbal cartoon. Compare the original poem and its parody given on page 35 using the following points :

| How doth the little busy bee (original) | How doth the little crocodile (parody) |
|--|---|
| Choice of subject (an animal) | |
| Number of lines and stanzas | |
| Same or similar constructions : | |
| Tone of the poem | |

- Answer the following questions and write in short, why the parody sounds funny.
 - What does the bee stand for?
 - What does the crocodile stand for?
 - Why does the bee work hour after hour?
 - Why does the crocodile work?
 - Is the bee a gentle creature? Is the crocodile gentle?
- Describe** a crocodile **in your own words**. Which of the words and phrases in the poem will you use in a realistic description?
Put a tick mark against the ones you will use.
 - little ☐
 - shining tail ☐
 - golden scale ☐
 - cheerful ☐
 - grin ☐
 - claws ☐
 - gently smiling ☐
 - jaws ☐
- Note that most of the times well-known works are parodied, because people can enjoy the parody better when they know the original. Try to find more examples of parodies in English or other languages.
- What do you like better – the original poem or the parody? Why?