

English

## Central Idea:

The poem “Cart Driver” written by Padma Sachdev is about the love a mother has for her children. It is an eerie atmosphere that creates fear and dread. In the poem the bulbul senses the danger of the fire in its dwelling (forest). In order to save its fledglings, it wants to rush to them but out of fear, it finds itself unable to move/fly.

## Paraphrase:

**Line (1 – 7):** The poet says that in a fearful silence of the forest, he hears the sound of the footfalls of a careful bulbul. The bulbul was out in the night, moving /shaking its feathers on its head. The bulbul is out in the fearful night to find food for its young one’s who are hungry in the nest.

**Line (8 – 18):** the poet says that the bulbul is moving slowly out of fear. It has raised its ears due to the sound which it has heard coming from somewhere. The bulbul carrying the grain in its beak hastens/ rushes to its nest. Its fledglings are making a series of short high sounds in the nest, without knowing that their dwelling (forest) is in danger. They continue with their chirping. But the bulbul continues to tremble out of fear. The bulbul moves with its head raised and put itself on full alert.

**Line (19 – 28):** Suddenly there is a sound of wheels in the forest. There is a sound of dry leaves crackling. It is a sound which increases and then becomes less strong. On hearing this sound, the bulbul rushes to the bushes and hides itself behind them. It has seen a bullock–cart laden with goods, the driver of which is asleep. He is snoring and his eyes are covered with turban which he has put on his head. The bullocks are moving by themselves with their heads down.

**Line (29 – 36):** The bulbul is worried, anxious, filled with fear that if the cart stumbles and its drivers hookah overturns, then the whole forest (bulbul’s lovely dwelling) could catch fire. The bulbul imagines that the forest is already on fire. It wishes and wants to rush towards its nest, where it has kept its chicks but cannot lift its legs out of fear.

