

**Central Idea:**

The poem “Snow Drop” written by Fed Hughes presents a very tough and cruel image of winter. Hughes has used the images from winter to portray the toughness and brutality that a severe winter brings. Owing to the freezing weather, many outdoor creatures have nearly become immobile. They no longer scurry or fly as they used to.

**Paraphrase:**

**Line (1- 5):** The poet has portrayed a chilly winter season. The planet (earth) appears to have shrunk tight owing to the freezing cold. The poet has used globe for the snow drop because of it's roundness. Chilly and brutal winter has shrunk tight the flower also (here it means chilly winter has shrunk the globe. The poet looked in pity at a mouse for it's plight. The toughness of the weather has dulled the functioning of the mouse's heart. The poor animal has gone into hibernation with a reduced heart beat. The plight of weasel and crow is also no different owing to the brutal cold, they too look/appear as if moulded in brass. The brutal cold weather has rendered them immobile. They can hardly roam around in the open. And whenever they're roaming around or whatever little movement, they appear to make, it is all in darkness because it is dark/gloomy even during the day. The sun hardly appears. Due to the freezing cold, these poor animals are not in their right minds. They are experiencing the hardships caused to them due to the brutal cold. Many other animals are at the verge of death. On seeing the hardships being faced by other animals, they fear that they might experience the same thing.

**Line (6-8):** The poet says that many outdoor creatures are killed by the severe cold in winter. The, he talks about snowdrop flower. He addresses it as “she” because this flower possesses the ability to bloom even in chilly weather. The flower appears to possess some exceptional powers of survival and to the poet, it is the symbol of the survival of the fittest in nature. In spite of the chill, it continues to achieve its goals. It pushes up its stem through the thick, hard layers of snow. It appears, as brutal as, the stars of this month (here January). The stars in the month of January do not arouse any emotions in the hearts of the beholders. In the same manner, snowdrop too doesn't arouse any feelings, it fails to produce any emotions in the beholder. The pale drooping head of snowdrop appears very heavy, as though, it is made of some heavy metal. But due to this heaviness and hardness of head, snowdrop is able to withstand the intense cold, when others fail to do so!

