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An Elementary School classroom in a Slum.

The Present poem has been composed by Stephen Spender. He presents the poor and miserable condition of the boys and girls who are taught in a slum school in filthy situation. The poet gives the picture of pitiable condition of the people living in slum areas. The condition of the boys is that hair are torn and like rootless weeds. Their eyes are like rats eyes which presents their uncommon appearance. They are neglected and unnoticed. They pay attention to the outside activities of the squirrels playing in the hole of the trees.

In the classroom these are pictures of Shakespeare and Royal Valley and map of the world which are irrelevant and useless for the children. In fact, the world of children is their classroom windows opening out into foggy world of the slums. Again the poet gives us the contrast between the world of the children and that represented by Shakespeare and the Tyrols valley. The poor children try to satisfy their desire of wearing glasses by picking pieces of glass lying on the garbage.

In the last stanza of the poem, the poet says that the condition of these slum children can be improved if the govern or teacher visits the elementary school and try to provide them healthy situation which can upbringing them physically and mentally. The use of simile and other figure of speech enriches the poem.