

- [Waiting for the Rain Summary](#)
- [Character Sketch of Velu](#)
- [Themes in Waiting for the Rain](#)
- [Literary Devices in Waiting for the Rain](#)

Waiting for the Rain Summary

"Waiting for the Rain" is a prose story about Velu, a hardworking farmer who anxiously awaits the arrival of rain to cultivate his land. The story highlights the challenges faced by farmers during droughts and the importance of nature's balance. Velu's land has been fertile for years, but this season, the rains do not come, leaving the earth dry and cracked. Despite his efforts and hope, the drought persists, causing distress among the villagers.

Velu consults astrologers and the weather office but finds no answers. An encounter with an old woman under a tree leads to a deeper understanding: the land, like humans, needs rest. The woman explains that the earth has worked for centuries and requires a break to rejuvenate. Velu realizes that the drought might be nature's way of letting the soil rest. As the story ends, clouds gather, and rain finally begins, symbolizing hope and renewal.

Key Elements

- **Setting:** A rural village with farmland, dry earth, and natural surroundings.
- **Main Character:** Velu, a dedicated farmer.
- **Theme:** The relationship between humans and nature, patience, and respect for natural cycles.
- **Conflict:** Drought and the struggle to cultivate land without rain.
- **Resolution:** Understanding nature's need for rest and the eventual arrival of rain.

Important Quotes

- "I hope it rains at least today," – Velu's hopeful thought at dawn.
- "Perhaps you have worked too hard," – The old woman's advice to Velu.
- "Nature knows a thing or two... go home," – The old woman's concluding words.

Practice Set

Level 1 – Easy

- Who is Velu and what is his occupation?
- Why was Velu worried at the beginning of the story?

Level 2 – Moderate

- Explain why Velu was unable to cultivate his land this season.
- What advice did the old woman give to Velu?

Level 3 – Challenging

- Discuss the theme of human interaction with nature as presented in the story.
- How does the story convey the importance of patience and understanding natural cycles?

Answer Key

- **Level 1:** Velu is a farmer. He was worried because there was no sign of rain.
- **Level 2:** Velu could not cultivate his land because the rains did not come, causing drought. The old woman advised that the land needs rest, just like humans, to rejuvenate.
- **Level 3:** The story shows that humans depend on nature and must respect its cycles. It teaches patience and the understanding that sometimes nature requires rest to

restore balance.

Quick Reference

- Velu – Farmer waiting for rain.
- Drought – Lack of rain causing hardship.
- Old woman – Symbolizes wisdom and nature's voice.
- Theme – Patience, respect for nature, and hope.

Glossary

- **Drought:** A long period without rain.
- **Plough:** To turn over the soil for planting.
- **Astrologer:** A person who predicts events by studying stars.
- **Rejuvenate:** To make fresh or new again.

Character Sketch of Velu

Velu is the protagonist of the story, a hardworking and honest farmer who deeply cares for his land and family. He is patient and hopeful, waking early each day to check the sky for rain. Despite the drought and hardships, Velu does not lose faith and seeks practical solutions, such as consulting the weather office. He is respectful and open-minded, as shown by his conversation with the old woman, which leads him to a new understanding of nature.

Key Traits

- **Hardworking:** Works tirelessly on his land every season.
- **Hopeful:** Continues to wait for rain despite difficulties.
- **Practical:** Seeks advice from experts rather than relying on superstition.
- **Respectful:** Listens to the old woman's wisdom.
- **Reflective:** Thinks deeply about the land and nature.

Practice Set

Level 1 – Easy

- What is Velu's occupation?
- How does Velu feel when he wakes up?

Level 2 – Moderate

- Why does Velu decide to visit the weather office?
- Describe Velu's reaction after talking to the old woman.

Level 3 – Challenging

- Analyze Velu's character in terms of his attitude towards nature and hard work.
- How does Velu's character help convey the story's message?

Answer Key

- **Level 1:** Velu is a farmer. He feels hopeful but worried when he wakes up.
- **Level 2:** Velu visits the weather office to find out when it will rain. After talking to the old woman, he understands the need to let the land rest and feels hopeful.
- **Level 3:** Velu respects nature and values hard work but learns that nature has its own rhythms. His character shows the importance of patience and harmony with nature.

Quick Reference

- Velu – Hardworking farmer.
- Hopeful and patient.
- Seeks knowledge and respects wisdom.

Glossary

- **Protagonist:** The main character in a story.
- **Reflective:** Thoughtful and considering deeply.
- **Superstition:** Belief not based on scientific facts.

Themes in Waiting for the Rain

The story explores several important themes relevant to nature, human life, and society.

Major Themes

- **Man and Nature:** The story emphasizes the close relationship between humans and the natural world. It shows how farmers depend on rain and how nature has its own cycles.
- **Patience and Hope:** Velu and the villagers wait patiently for the rains, symbolizing hope even in difficult times.
- **Respect for Nature:** The old woman's advice highlights the need to respect the earth and allow it to rest, teaching sustainable farming and environmental care.
- **Hard Work and Perseverance:** Velu's dedication to his land shows the value of hard work, even when results are uncertain.

Practice Set

Level 1 – Easy

- What is the main problem faced by Velu?
- Why is patience important in the story?

Level 2 – Moderate

- Explain how the story shows the connection between man and nature.
- What lesson does the old woman teach Velu?

Level 3 – Challenging

- Discuss the theme of sustainable farming as implied in the story.
- How does the story encourage respect for the environment?

Answer Key

- **Level 1:** Velu faces drought and lack of rain. Patience is important because it helps him wait for nature's timing.
- **Level 2:** The story shows that humans depend on nature's cycles. The old woman teaches that the land needs rest to remain fertile.
- **Level 3:** The story suggests that continuous farming without rest harms the soil. It encourages letting the earth rejuvenate, promoting sustainable farming and environmental care.

Quick Reference

- Man and Nature – Interdependence.
- Patience – Waiting with hope.
- Respect – Caring for the earth.
- Hard Work – Perseverance despite challenges.

Glossary

- **Sustainable Farming:** Farming that maintains soil health and environment.
- **Perseverance:** Continued effort despite difficulties.
- **Rejuvenate:** To restore to a better condition.

Literary Devices in Waiting for the Rain

The story uses several literary devices to enhance its message and engage readers.

Key Literary Devices

- **Imagery:** Vivid descriptions of the dry land, cracked earth, and the gathering clouds create strong mental pictures. For example, "The sun was beginning to rise, glowing crimson like fire." This helps readers visualize the setting and mood.
- **Personification:** Nature is given human qualities, such as the earth "breathing peacefully" and the land "resting." This emphasizes the connection between humans and nature.
- **Symbolism:** The rain symbolizes hope, renewal, and life. The old woman represents wisdom and the voice of nature.
- **Dialogue:** Conversations between Velu and the old woman reveal important themes and character insights.
- **Contrast:** The story contrasts the hard work of Velu with the inactivity forced by drought, highlighting the tension between human effort and natural forces.

Examples from Text

- Imagery: "The fields lay untended, the earth hardened, crusted and cracked."
- Personification: "The land lies undisturbed, staring at the sky, resting..."
- Symbolism: Rain as a symbol of hope and renewal.

Practice Set

Level 1 – Easy

- Identify one example of imagery from the story.
- What does the rain symbolize?

Level 2 – Moderate

- Explain how personification is used in the story.
- Describe the role of the old woman as a symbol.

Level 3 – Challenging

- Analyze how the use of contrast enhances the story's message.
- Discuss the importance of dialogue in revealing the story's themes.

Answer Key

- **Level 1:** Imagery example: "The earth hardened, crusted and cracked." Rain symbolizes hope and renewal.
- **Level 2:** Personification is used by giving the land human qualities like resting and breathing. The old woman symbolizes wisdom and nature's voice.
- **Level 3:** Contrast between Velu's hard work and the drought shows the limits of human control over nature. Dialogue helps explain themes and character feelings clearly.

Quick Reference

- Imagery – Descriptive language creating pictures.
- Personification – Giving human traits to non-human things.
- Symbolism – Using symbols to represent ideas.
- Dialogue – Conversation between characters.
- Contrast – Showing differences to highlight ideas.

Glossary

- **Imagery:** Language that appeals to the senses.
- **Personification:** Attributing human qualities to objects or ideas.
- **Symbolism:** Use of symbols to represent concepts.
- **Contrast:** Difference between two things.

