

POEMS

NOTES

COMPLETE

**QUESTION/
ANSWERS**

The Rain

Q: What do the rich leaves symbolize?

Ans: The rich leaves, on the top of the trees, symbolize the affluent class of the society which is blessed with all the facilities of life.

Q: What do the poor leaves symbolize?

Ans: The poor leaves symbolize the lower class of the society which live on the share given by the affluent class of the society.

Q: What does the poet hear?

Ans: The poet hears the leaves drinking rain. The leaves on the top of the trees sprinkle drops after drops on the leaves beneath. It creates musical sound.

Q: What do the rich leaves give to the poor beneath?

Ans: The rich leaves on the top of the tree sprinkle drops after drops on the poor leaves beneath. It creates a musical sound. The poet calls it a sweet noise.

Q: What does the poet hope?

Ans: The poet hopes that the sunshine will brighten every dark corner of the world when the rain stops. It will be a pleasant sight.

Q: What kind of message does the poem convey?

Ans: The poem gives us a message of optimism. We should not lose hope even in the worst situation of life. Because the sunshine of happiness finally brightens every dark corner of the sorrow of life.

Q: What is the theme of the poem?

Ans: the poem has two themes. First, there should be an equal distribution of the resources in society. Then, man should not lose hope even in the worst situation because every cloud has silver lining.

Q: What does the phrase "A Sweet Noise" stand for?

Ans: It is an oxymoron which is a form of a paradox where two contradictory terms are combined in one phrase. The poet has not lost his aesthetic sense even in the worst circumstances of his life because he can derive sweetness even from the noise that sounds irritating. (Cold fire, honest thief, fearful joy, echoed silence)

Night Mail

Q: What does the Night Mail bring?

Ans: The Night Mail brings mails including postal orders, cheques, and letters for different people living at different places.

44

By

Atif Jameel

(2)

Q: Where does the train pass from?

Ans: It passes from the different places. It climbs up the steep hill. It passes through the cotton field, heath, and rocky areas.

Q: What do the birds do when the train comes?

Ans: The birds are not disturbed by the arrival of the train. They know the fixed time of the train. They turn their heads. They look at the empty boxes of the train from the bushes.

Q: What do the dogs do when the train comes?

Ans: They are not disturbed by the arrival of the train. They continue to sleep soundly. They know the fixed time of the train and they also know that they can not change the path of the train by barking at it.

Q: What happens when the train passes through the farm?

Ans: It does not disturb the ongoing process of life. Nobody wakes up. It just makes a jug vibrate slightly.

Q: What kind of message does the train convey?

Ans: It gives us a message of being punctual, constant and diligent whatever the circumstances come in life.

Loveliest of Trees, The Cherry Now

Q: What is meant by the line "Wearing white for Easter tide"?

Ans: Easter is the religious festival of the Christians and the white is their religious colour. So, the poet says that the cherry tree has put on white dress of flowers to celebrate Easter.

Q: What time is mentioned in the first stanza of the poem?

Ans: The time of spring season is mentioned in the first stanza of the poem because the Christians celebrate Easter in this season.

Q: How many years does the poet say will not come in his life?

Ans: The twenty years of the poet's life, which he has spent without enjoying the beauty of the cherry tree, will not come again. The poet is regretful over this.

Q: How many years will the poet live?

Ans: According to the biblical faith, the poet is supposed to live seventy years. He has already spent twenty years of his life and will live fifty years more.

Q: Describe the lines "To see the cherry hung with snow":

Ans: In the spring season, the branches of the cherry tree are laden with white flowers. Therefore, the tree seems to be covered with snow.

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Q: What is the theme of the poem?

Ans: The poem shows the temporary nature of this worldly life that is not sufficient to enjoy the beauty of the natural objects like the cherry tree. It reminds us the famous words by John Keats: "A thing of beauty is joy forever".

O Where are You Going

Q: What kind of feelings does the poet create in the minds of the readers?

Ans: The poet makes the readers feel that there is no royal road to success.

everyone

has to face the dangers, hardships and obstacles to get his goal. But ^{he} who remains determined and optimistic reaches his destination.

Q: What is the theme of the poem?

Ans: The poem shows that there is no royal road to success. ^{Everyone} has to face the dangers, hardships and obstacles to get his goal. But ^{he} who remains determined and optimistic reaches his destination.

Q: What does the reader say about the valley?

Ans: The reader says that the valley becomes deadly when the furnaces burn in it. It is full of dunghills whose stench will sicken the rider. There is a grave-like gap in it.

Q: What will the farer lack in fearer's point of you?

Ans: The farer will lack the careful sight to judge which path he is walking on. He will not be able to feel when the hard stones or soft grass come under his feet.

Q: How does the horror frighten the hearer?

Ans: Horror frightens the hearer by creating a mysterious atmosphere. He says that the ghostly bird is chasing him in order to catch and kill him.

Q: What does the title of the poem suggest?

Ans: The title of the poem is an alarming question asked by the hostile forces of life that create uncertainty and fears about the journey of success.

In the Street of the Fruit Stalls

✓ Q: Describe the atmosphere of the street:

Ans: It is the time of night. The dark dewdrops are falling. The shopkeepers have lanterns on their fruit stalls that make the circle of light. The darkness of the street symbolizes the darkness of the world.

✓ Q: How do the children eat fruit?

Ans: The poor children buy a fruit, break it open and start eating with so much relish that the juice of it sticks on their fingers, mouths, cheeks, noses, and chins.

Q: How do the children find the fruits?

Ans: The innocence of the children makes them find the moon and the sun in the common forms of the fruits because of the effect of light on them.

Q: Why has the poet used "cannon ball" to describe the fruits?

Ans: The fruits shine like some metallic balls in the dim light of lantern. The threat of war is all around and the poet's mind is preoccupied by the deadly weapons. So the fruits appear to him as cannon balls.

Q: What are the feelings of the poet standing in the dark street?

Ans: The poet is disturbed by the symbolic darkness of the street. He wishes that the people who are engrossed in their pleasure should share his feelings.

Q: What lesson does the poem give?

Ans: This is a symbolic poem. It shows that the world is darkened with the threats of war, poverty and misery. We should share the feelings of the poet and struggle to minimize these threats.

A Sindhi Woman

Q: What does the poet say about the woman walking through the bazaar?

Ans: The poet says that a woman is walking through the bazaar with bare feet. She is elegantly moving with wavy gait. She is carrying a stone jar on her head but there is no disturbance in her walking.

Q: Why is the poet impressed by the woman?

Ans: He is impressed by the woman because she is elegantly moving with wavy gait. She is carrying a stone jar on her head but there is no disturbance in her walking.

Q: What kind of picture of the Karachi slums do we have after reading the poem?

Ans: We have a very gloomy picture of Karachi slums littered with trash, human waste and broken piece of glass. The inhabitants of this area are living very hard life.

Q: What does the poet reflect when he sees the woman?

Ans: The poet meditates that those who carry the burden of responsibilities and face hardships can walk straight with dignity.

Q: What is the main idea of the poem?

Ans: The poem is a tribute to the Sindhi woman in particular and to all the working women in general who carry the burden of responsibilities in life.

Alif Javed
Only for

Ozymandias

Q: What did the ^{traveler} poet see in the desert?

Ans: The poet saw a broken statue of an ancient king in the desert. Its two large and bodiless legs were standing there. Besides them, the crushed face was lying half sunk in the sand.

Q: What kind of expressions did the face of the king give?

Ans: The expressions of the face indicated that the king must be proud and contemptuous of others. It also showed the skill of the artist who imitated them beautifully.

Q: What do the words inscribed on the pedestal suggest?

Ans: The words suggest that nobody can live forever in this mortal world. Man's pride over his achievements never keeps him alive. All the feelings of superiority in man are only an illusion. ^{he is forgotten.}

Q: What does the poem teach us?

Ans: The poem teaches us that sooner or later, everyone has to leave this mortal world. We should not feel pride over our wealth and power. Time brings an end to everything and death is a great ^{leveler.}

The Feed

Q: What does the mother sparrow do?

Ans: The mother sparrow, holding a grain of millet in her beak, comes to feed her ten children.

Q: How do the young ones look?

Ans: The young ones are so small in size that they look beaks from head to toe when they cry for food.

Q: Why does the sight of feeding disturb the poet?

Ans: The sight of feeding disturbs the poet because the mother sparrow has only one grain of millet which she has to feed the ten children. The poet wonders how she will manage it to satisfy the hunger of the young ones.

Q: What is the symbolic significance of feeding?

Ans: It symbolizes the motherly affection and care towards the children. Mothers struggle to manage food for their children.

Q: Why does the poet relate fissuring the atom with splitting the grain?

Ans: The actions of fissuring the atom and splitting the grain are similar in nature. By relating them, the poet criticizes man who split the atom, made atomic bomb, and destroyed the peace of the world but he is unable to split the grain and feed the starved humanity.

Q: What is the moral lesson of the poem?

Ans: The poem is a big lesson for those atomic powers which have tormented the peace of the world. They should use atomic energy for constructive purposes in order to feed the starved humanity.

Q: What does the fissuring the atom remind us?

Ans: It reminds us the horrible incident that took place in the Second World War when the atom was dropped on Japan. It caused destruction of life and property on large scale. ^{bomb}

The Hollow Men

Q: Why does the poet call us the hollow men?

Ans: He calls us hollow men because we are empty from our inside. We are soulless. We are void of love, sincerity and faith. Our lust for worldly things has made us selfish and emotionless.

Q: Why does the poet call us stuffed men?

Ans: He calls us stuffed men because we are like puppets stuffed with useless things. We have filled the emptiness of ^{our hearts} with greediness, selfishness, meanness and shallowness.

Q: What does the poet say about our voices?

Ans: The poet wants to say that we have lost the effectiveness of our speech. When we talk to each other, our voices become as meaningless as the voices made by the rustling of grass and running of rats in some storehouse.

Q: What do we lack according to the poet?

Ans: We lack identical form, colours of healthy life, strength of character and spirit of action. We are just like lifeless things used for worldly purposes.

Q: How do the dead remember us?

Ans: They do not remember us as strayed and emotional souls rather as men empty from inside and as puppets filled with useless stuff.

Q: What is the theme of the poem?

Ans: The poem is a satire on the modern man who has lost the purity of heart and soul. He has ^{rejected} defied God. The lust for worldly things has made him materialistic. He has become soulless and emotionless.

Times

Q: What is the theme of the poem?

Ans: The poem presents the **B**iblical belief that everything happens in this world at its appropriate time set by the divine forces. This is the law of nature. If anyone violates it, he will face the music.

Q: What does the verse "A time to embrace, And a time to refrain from embracing" convey?

Ans: It conveys an idea that we find the things or people acceptable at some proper time so, we welcome them but a time comes when they become unfavourable so, we avoid welcoming them.

Q: What do you understand by "A time to keep and time to cast away"?

Ans: It means that it is useful to keep things sometimes but we have to throw them away when they lose their validity.

Q: What do you understand by "A time to break down, And a time to build up"?

Ans: It means that sometime we have to demolish what we had built in the past. We start building new things. Destruction follows construction and this process goes on forever.

Leisure

Q: What is meant by 'life full of care'?

Ans: The poet wants to say that the present life is full of woes and worries that do not allow us to spare sometime to enjoy the beauty of nature.

Q: Why does the poet give reference of sheep and cows in the poem 'Leisure'?

Ans: The poet wants to say that our life has become worse than the animals because we don't have as much time as the animals have to spend in the company of nature.

Q: What do we not see in the broad daylight?

Ans: Our minds are so over-burdened with the hurries and worries of life that while walking by the stream we do not observe the beautiful sight of the glittering water in broad daylight that looks like the sky full of stars at night.

Q: What is the personification used by the poet in 'Leisure'?

Ans: The poet personifies beauty as young pretty girl dancing happily. Beauty of nature like a pretty girl keeps on dancing around us but our pursuits of life do not allow us to glance at it.

Q: Which kind of smile does the poet talk about in the poem 'Leisure'?

Ans: Apparently, the poet talks about the smile of a pretty girl that starts from her eyes and ends on her lips. In fact, this is the smile of beauty found in the blooming objects of nature.

Q: What is the theme of the poem?

Ans: The poet mourns over the life of the modern man who has become slave of time. His pursuits of mechanical life have deprived him of the simple pleasures of life. He can not enjoy the beauty of nature.

Rub'iyat

Q: Who was Abraham?

Ans: Hazrat Abraham (A.S) was the prophet of God. He laid the foundation of Islam and preached the oneness of Allah. When he was thrown into fire by infidels, it was his strong faith in Allah that turned the fire into roses.

Q: What is worse than slavery?

Ans: Allama Iqbal says that having no faith is worse than slavery.

Q: Who can not compete with the civilization of Makkah?

Ans: European can not compete with the civilization of Makkah because they have no centre of unity among them like Makkah.

Atif Javed

Q: What has made the efforts of the Muslims fruitless?

Ans: The loss of faith in Allah, blind adoption of western life-style and lack of love and unity have made the efforts of the Muslims fruitless.

Q: What moral lesson does 'Ruba'iyat' teach us?

Ans: The Muslims should not adopt the western life-style. They should revive their faith in Allah and struggle to stand united as they were in the golden period of Islam.

Q: What is the present state of the Muslims as given in the last stanza of the poem?

Ans: They have lost the spirit of love for Allah. They have become senseless and indifferent to the pain of others. They are no more united. Their souls remain restless. Their prayers have become fruitless. They just show affectation in their feelings.

Q: What is faith according to Allama Iqbal?

Ans: According to Allama Iqbal, the spirit of sacrificing one's life for the sake of self-honour and love for Allah is faith as shown by Hazrat Abraham.

Q: What do you understand by 'Music of strange lands with Islam's fire blend'?

Ans: Allama Iqbal says that Islam keeps all the Muslims harmonized irrespective of their difference of colour, race, culture and language.

Q: How does Iqbal criticize the European civilization?

Ans: Iqbal criticizes European civilization that it has no centre of unity like Makkah which binds all the Muslims in one string.

A Tale of Two Cities

Q: Why did the people look powerless and helpless?

Ans: They looked powerless and helpless because they could not defend themselves against the attack of atom bombs. Everything was ruined and burnt in a blink of an eye.

Q: Under what circumstances the victims had to pass through?

Ans: They had to pass through the horrible circumstances. Everything was burnt, smashed and crushed by the atom bombs. There was nobody to lessen their pain. There were shrieks and clouds of smoke everywhere.

Q: Describe the scene of the devastation:

Ans: The atomic explosions burnt, smashed and crushed everything so sudden that people could not defend themselves. There were shrieks and clouds of smoke everywhere. Nothing was left behind. It was like a doomsday.

Q: What is the moral lesson of the poem?

Q: Which train does the poet refer?

Ans: This is the train of death which takes all of us from this mortal world to the immortal one. The poet has realized the fact that this life is too short and all of his friends will leave this world soon.

Q: What is meant by decamping talk?

Ans: It means that the death of his friend has appalled the poet so much that the life seems to end for him. All the dear ones will depart from this world leaving behind pain and cries.

He Came to Know Himself

Q: Why does the poet put emphasis on how to know himself?

Ans: The poet has a mystic belief that God is inside us. To know one self is to know God. So, he puts emphasis that we can know our relation with God by absorbing in His love.

Q: What makes one entangled in love?

Ans: The search for truth in life makes one entangled in love of Allah. When one loves Allah, one sees nothing but Allah everywhere?

Q: Why did Mansur mount the gallows?

Ans: Mansur mounted on the gallows because he loved God so much that he started calling himself God. As a result, people cut his head off. He gladly accepted his death because worldly life was meaningless for him.

Q: What is the bare truth?

Ans: According to mystic belief, God is inside us. Our worldly life is temporary. So the bare truth is that God stays in this world for a short time in form of all human beings.

Q: What is the poet saying about the sojourn on earth in the last lines?

Ans: According to mystic belief, God is inside us. Our worldly life is temporary. So, the poet says that God stays in this world for a short time in form of all human beings.

Explain these lines:

He alighted from heaven
To pour a cascade of love

According to mystic belief, God has come down from heaven in form of human beings to spread the message of love. The creation of this universe is based on love.

Ans: The poem gives a message to the atomic powers of the world that human rights should not be violated. War is not a solution of the problems. The conflicts between the countries should be resolved in peaceful manners.

Q: Describe the last two lines of the poem:

Ans: The atomic explosions turned everything into ashes but the peoples of Japan did not lose heart. They proved themselves as a great nation by developing their country from the ashes.

Q: What is the theme of the poem?

Ans: The poem shows the havoc of atomic explosions that turned the two cities of Japan into ashes. But at the same time, it also shows the greatness of Japanese who developed their country from the ashes.

My Neighbour Friend Breathing His Last

Q: When does a person remember God?

Ans: A person remembers God in painful moments of life. Some sudden shock horrifies him and reminds him of God. But God-fearing people always remember Him.

Q: What is the effect of the death scene?

Ans: The death of his neighbour friend has appalled the poet. He is helpless and prays God to get him out of this state.

Q: Why does a person feel helpless on the death of a friend?

Ans: A person feels helpless because he can not stop the death of his friend. Everyone is to leave this world sooner or later and the poet has realized this fact.

Q: How the flames in the heart are flared up to height?

Ans: The separation from the dear and near ones flares up flames in heart to height. The poet is heart-stricken over the departure of his friend from this world.

Q: Without whose love Bullah is in loss?

Ans: Without God's love, Bullah is in loss. According to him, one who does not love God is deprived of His blessing in this world and hereafter as well.

Q: What conclusion does the poet draw in the last three lines of the poem?

Ans: The poet draws the conclusion that one who does not love God is deprived of His blessing in this world and the hereafter as well. Life becomes painless when one gets absorbed in God's love.

God's Attributes

✓Q: How many attributes are mentioned in the poem?

Ans: Three attributes of God are mentioned in the poem. They are "Seeing, Hearing and Knowing."

Q: What makes man scared of sinning?

Ans: The belief that God sees man all the time makes man scared of sinning.

Q: What are the effects of the attributes of God?

Ans: The attributes of God affect our lives a lot because our strong belief in them saves us from committing sins in life.

Q: Mention three more attributes of God:

Ans: Three more attributes of God are: the Beneficent, the Merciful, and the Forgiving.

Q: How do the attributes of God help in refining the character of a person?

Ans: With the strong faith in the attributes of God, man can refine his character. He feels himself in connection with God and abstains from bad habits.

Q: God calls Himself "Hearing". How does this attribute of God help one in daily speech?

Ans: With this belief that God hears us all the time, we prevent ourselves from bad discussions. We avoid uttering such abusive words that hurt people. So, our talking becomes impressive.

Explanation of the attributes with reference to the present life style

1: Seeing to the end:

At present, we have forgotten our religious teachings. We have lost our connection with God. We are involved in committing sins. So, if we believe that God is all seeing, we can prevent ourselves from engaging in bad activities.

2: Hearing to the end:

At present, we have forgotten our religious teachings. We have lost our connection with God. We use such abusive words that hurt people and displease God. If we believe that God is all hearing, we can prevent ourselves from making bad discussion.

3: knowing to the end:

At present, we have forgotten our religious teachings. We have lost our connection with God. We make evil designs to gain benefits. If we believe that God is all knowing, we can prevent ourselves from being hypocrite.

The Delight Song

Q: What do you understand when the poet says, "I am the shadow that follows a child"?

Ans: The poet enjoys the childhood fascination. Children find pleasures in every thing and the poet enjoys their innocent talking and actions by chasing them like a shadow.

Q: How can the crust of the snow glitter?

Ans: The crust stands for the hard outer surface of the snow that flitters when the rays of the sun fall on it.

Q: What is the dream of the poet?

Ans: In this universe, everything that gives pleasure and comfort to our senses is the dream of the poet. His close association with nature keeps him delighted.

Q: What is the effect of man's good relation with the earth and the lords?

Ans: Man's good relation with the earth and lords keeps him happy and makes his life worth living.

Q: What are the things that keep a person alive?

Ans: Optimistic attitude towards life and harmony with nature keeps a person alive. He finds his reflection in everything that gives pleasure and comfort.

Q: Which state of the mind goes well with the poem? (Optimist or pessimist)

Ans: The poem shows the optimistic state of mind. It unveils the colourful side of this universe that give us hope to live a happy life.

Q: What is the theme of the poem?

Ans: The poem inspires us to be optimistic in life. We should develop our relation with everything that is beautiful and fruitful. This is how we can live a happy and contented life.

Love – An Essence of All Religions

Q: Why does the poet put emphasis on love?

Ans: The poet puts emphasis on love because love is the essence of all religions. Life is hard to live without love. Love begets love. If we love one another, this world will become paradise.

Q: What is the effect of love?

Ans: Love has magical effect in our lives. It changes the adversities into pleasures and bitterness into softness. Life becomes success by love.

Q: Is life worth living without love?

Ans: No, life is hard to live without love. It is like a bed of thorns. It is love that makes life worth living.

Q: What do the thorns, roses, vinegar and sweet wine stand for?

Ans: Thorns and vinegar stand for the adversities of life while roses and sweet wine stand for the pleasures of life.

Q: Describe the reference of the "stake becomes throne"?

Ans: The poet gives reference of the trial of Hazrat Abraham (A.S) who was thrown into the fire but it was his love with Allah that changed the fire into roses.

Q: What is the moral lesson of the poem?

Ans: It teaches us that we can solve our problems and conflicts. Love can turn this world into a paradise.

A Man of Words and Not of Deeds

Q: Paraphrase the poem: (such questions are not given in exams)

Ans: A talkative but unpractical man is like a garden which is full of wild plants. When these plants start growing, they cover the entire garden like the snow that covers the hills. The fall of snow makes the situation all the more dull and dangerous. It makes the birds take refuge on some wall. When the bird flies it is like an eagle high in the sky. When the sky roars it looks like a lion at the door. When the door cracks, it is like a stick on your back. And when your back aches, a knife pierces through your heart. Your heart bleeds and you die.

Q: How does the life of man pass through different phases of it?

Ans: Life of a man who talks much but acts little is miserable and full of agonies. He sits idle and so rusts. He becomes useless. His uselessness irritates him. He becomes destructive. He destroys but himself. Then he feels ashamed of himself. But now time is too short for him to mend himself. The agony, shame and humiliation engulf him and he dies with no name carved anywhere.

Q: What happened when the life is not of deed but is full of words?

Ans: The life of person who is talkative but unpractical becomes painful and useless. Such person remains unsuccessful in his life. His life becomes like a garden that benefits none.

Q: What is the condition of the garden when the weeds start growing?

Ans: When the weeds start growing in the garden, it loses its colours and charms. It becomes useless for the people.

Q: What is the moral lesson of the poem?

Ans: It teaches us a lesson that we should not waste our time in talking only. We should be practical in all the affairs of life. This is the only way to get success.

In Broken Images

Q: What is the state of condition of two persons, one who trusts clear images and the other who mistrusts the broken images?

Ans: One who trusts clear images without any proof becomes dull and passive while the other who mistrusts his unclear ideas and keeps searching the truth becomes sharp and intelligent.

Q: Why does a person question his senses when the facts fail him?

Ans: A person who assumes the facts trusting his clear images always questions his senses because he takes everything as granted without proof and gets confused on having different results.

Q: Who is in a new confusion of his understanding?

Ans: A person who takes everything as granted trusting his clear images is in a new confusion of his understanding.

Q: What is the moral lesson of the poem?

Ans: The poem teaches us that we should be inquisitive about the true nature of the things. We should not set our opinion about anything without logic. We should remain thoughtful in life.

Paraphrase of the first two lines:

The opponent of the poet is very hasty in making conclusions because he trusts his clear images and the poet's vague ideas keep him slow in setting his final opinion about anything.