

## REVISION PRACTICE

### Ballad of Father Gilligan

Genre. Ballad

Theme. God and his benevolence.

Summary in short. The poem was written in ballad form by the Irish writer W.B. Yeats. It's about a poor priest Father Peter Gilligan who day and night offered his services to his parishioners since they were visited by a dreadful epidemic and are dying day by day. In his extreme fatigue, his tired body emits out a sudden and unexpected nag which he, after a couple of seconds realizes was blasphemy and sin. A shocked and regretful father seeks forgiveness, imploring God to forgive him. In his deep repentance and conscience prick, he falls asleep praying during which he was sought by a poor sick man to do him extreme unction. Father Gilligan wakes up the next day with a shudder since he hadn't performed his priestly duties and rushes to the sick man's house. He rode as he never rode giving little heed to himself. Reaching there he was welcomed by the sick man's wife. On asking her he found out that the sick man had died as merrily as a bird. He also realized that God had sent in his angels in his guise to help the poor man at his last hours. He was also helped by God which means he was forgiven by God. This realization makes him all the more humble and he starts praising the glory of God. The poem abounds in a heap of images, metaphors, alliteration and rhyming words and similes.

Poetic techniques. Simile, metaphor, rhyming words visual and auditory images.

### OBJECTIVE QUESTIONS

1. Why was the old priest weary night and day?
2. flock refers to.....
3. Under green sods lay. What does this expression mean?
4. Explain 'the moth hour of the day'.
5. Why do you think the poor man sends for him?
6. What did the priest grieve for?
7. Why did the priest seek for forgiveness?

Pick out a line from the poem that indicates God takes care of the world.

9. Find out a line which means it was early morning the next day.
10. What is meant by Mavrone?
11. Who roused his horse and why?
12. Father, you come again! what do you guess from this?
13. What did the father want to know from her?
14. He died an hour ago. Who is mentioned as 'he' here?
15. Why do you think the priest swayed in grief?
16. What was the reply of the sick man's wife?

17. Who is referred to as the least of things?

18. How do you think he got pitied?

19. Who is referred to as 'wrapped in purple robes'?

20. Find an example for simile .

21. State the rhyme scheme .

23. Pick out an example for metaphor.

24. Give a line for auditory image.

Prepare a short appreciation of the ballad The ballad of Father Gilligan.

Based on the hints given below ,prepare the profile of W.B Yeats.

Birth.13,June,1865

Job:poet,dramatist, prose writer.

Notable works: Easter 1916,The second coming,Leda and the swan,Sailing to Byzantium .

Awards: Nobel prize in literature 1923.

Remembered as:The national poet of Ireland.

Death:28,January, 1939.France.

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