

**KMC ENGLISH MEDIUM HIGH SCHOOL**

EDAYAPPURAM,ALUVA-1

**ENGLISH NOTES****GLIMPSES OF GREEN*****Poem-Lines Written in Early Spring-William Wordsworth*****HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF THE POEM**

Wordsworth wrote Lines Written in Early Spring on a walk near the village of Alford. Wordsworth was an ardent walker, and often composed his poems on the move, or wrote them about the scenes of nature that he witnessed.

He supported the French Revolution, and had concerns about the way that civilization was going, and the things that humans were doing to each other

**STANZA-1**

I heard a thousand blended notes,  
While in a grove I sate reclined,  
In that sweet mood when pleasant thoughts  
Bring sad thoughts to the mind.

**WORDS & MEANINGS**

1.blend-mixture,combination

2.note-musical sound,a tone

3.sate-to sit

4.recline-to put in a resting position

5.mood-a mental or emotional state

**EXPLANATION OF THE FIRST STANZA**

In the first quatrain, the divinity of Nature occurs in the phrase 'a thousand blended notes, implying an almost-pervasive presence of the natural, something that is related to the omnipotence shown by God.

**POSSIBLE QUESTIONS & ANSWERS**

1. What does the poet mean by the expression 'a thousand' blended notes?

Ans: He heard a mixed variety of sounds and songs.

2. Why did the pleasant thoughts bring sad thoughts to the poet's mind?

Ans: Because he thinks about what man has made of man.

3 Pick out an example of auditory image from the given lines.

Ans:A thousand blended notes.

4. Identify the lines that tell us Nature is linked to the soul of human beings.

Ans: To her fair works did nature link, the human soul that ran through me.

5. What was the poet doing when he heard the notes.

Ans: He was taking rest in a grove.

6. When did pleasant thoughts bring sad thought to the mind?

Ans: When he was in happy mood.

7. What thought grieved the mind of the poet?

Ans: He thought about the activities of Man to Nature.

8. What is the rhyme scheme used in these stanzas?

Ans: abab, abab

9. Why does the poet sate reclined?

Ans: He is quite relaxed and blissful.

10. What feeling did the poet have when he sat in a grove?

Ans: Pleasant as well as sad feelings.

11. Who is the speaker in the poem Lines Written in Early Spring ?

Ans: The Poet

12. 'I heard a thousand blended notes,' Identify the poetic device used in this line.

Ans: - Hyperbole

13. When does the poet hear a thousand blended notes ?

Ans: While he was reclining in a grove.

14. What does the expression "I sate reclined" indicate about the poet's state of mind?

Ans: The expression indicates that the poet is in a calm, relaxed and pleasant mood.

15. Cite an example for auditory image from the given stanza

Ans: "I heard a thousand blended notes."

### **POSSIBLE ANSWERS FOR THE SCAFFOLD QUESTIONS.(TEXTUAL)**

1. What does the expression 'I sate reclined' indicate about the poet's state of mind?

Ans: The poet was in a resting mood.

2. Why does the poet feel sad while reclining in the grove?

Ans: - Some sad thoughts came in to conflict with the pleasant thoughts.

### **STANZA-2**

To her fair works did Nature link

The human soul that through me ran;  
And much it grieved my heart to think  
What man has made of man.

### **WORDS & MEANINGS**

- 1.fair-beautiful,lovely,pretty
- 2.link-connection,to connect
- 3.soul-the spirit of essence of something
- 4.grieve-to cause sorrow, to feel very sad

### **EXPLANATION OF THE SECOND STANZA**

The second stanza moves briefly away from Nature to recall on the misery that other humans have caused each other since time immemorial. The poet, however, takes a moment to state that Nature is linked to humanity through the idea of a soul; that Nature's soul is not that different from humanity, and that, although it has been forgotten by the rest of the world, it is man's natural state to be close to Nature. This was one of Wordsworth's principle philosophies: that it was man's innate state to be close to nature.

### **POSSIBLE QUESTIONS & ANSWERS**

1.What saddens the poet's heart?

Ans: The cruelties of man towards nature and his fellow beings.

2.What poetic device does the poet use in the line, To her fair works did Nature link.

Ans:Personification.

3.Identify an instance of alliteration from the lines given above.

Ans:What man has made of man.

4. Pick out an instance of personification from the above lines.

Ans:"To her fair works did nature link". Here the poet addresses the nature as 'her.

5. What is the rhyme scheme of the given stanza?

Ans: ab ab

6. How does the poet associate himself with nature?

Ans. The poet believes that human soul and nature are strongly associated.

7. What is the meaning of the phrase "what man has made of man"?

Ans: The poet describes the unnatural aspect of human nature, the wars, strife and grief which lead to human suffering and unhappiness.

### **POSSIBLE ANSWERS FOR THE SCAFFOLD QUESTIONS.(TEXTUAL)**

3. How does the poet associate himself with nature?

Ans: There is an intimate relation between the objects of nature and the soul of man.

4. 'And much it grieved my heart to think What man has made of man.'

What do these lines convey?

Ans: The poet notices the cruelty and discord of human life. The poet is sad at heart to see how man ill-treats man and wonders how a man is the enemy of another man.

### **STANZA-3**

Through primrose tufts, in that green bower,

The periwinkle trailed its wreaths;

And 'tis my faith that every flower

Enjoys the air it breathes.

#### **WORDS & MEANINGS**

1. Primrose- rose flower in yellow colour
2. tuft-group, bunch of
3. bower-a shady leaf shelter or recess in a garden or woods
4. periwinkle-a wild plant with blue colour flower
5. trail-to follow behind
6. wreath-an ornamental circular band made

#### **EXPLANATION OF THE THIRD STANZA**

In this stanza, the presence of nature as a living thing strikes again, this time in the movement verbs used 'trailed', for the periwinkle; 'breathes' for the flowers. Throughout Lines Written in Early Spring, Wordsworth does his best to create the idea of a living, breathing world that is only a fraction removed from humanity.

#### **POSSIBLE QUESTIONS & ANSWERS**

1. What does the poet think about the flowers?

Ans:- The poet thinks that every flower enjoys the air it breathes

2. Why did the poet think that every flower enjoys its beauty?

Ans:- Different flowers are in perfect harmony. The primrose and periwinkle grow and exist in harmony.

3. What is the figure of speech applied in the line, "And 'tis my faith that every flower Enjoys the air it breathes"?

Ans:- Personification.

#### **POSSIBLE ANSWERS FOR THE SCAFFOLD QUESTIONS.(TEXTUAL)**

5. What makes the poet think that every flower enjoys its existence?

Ans:-Wordsworth believes that nature also has a soul.All the objects of nature can enjoy pleasure like human beings.

#### **STANZA-4**

The birds around me hopped and played,

Their thoughts I cannot measure:-

But the least motion which they made

It seemed a thrill of pleasure.

#### **WORDS & MEANINGS**

- 1.hop-a short jump
- 2.least motion-small movement
- 3.thrill-to give someone great pleasure
- 4.seem-to appear

#### **EXPLANATION OF THE FOURTH STANZA**

Once more, the presence of movement draws stark contrast with the immobile poet – it is nature that draws the reader's attention, so much has been said about it that it renders the speaker-poet nearly a non-entity. He has no presence in the poem; no thoughts, no personality, no ideas. His world is subsumed by the stronger one of nature.

#### **POSSIBLE QUESTIONS & ANSWERS**

1. “The birds around me hopped and played”, According to this line, where is the poet sitting?

Ans:-The poet sitting in a small grove.

2.What seemed a thrill of pleasure to the poet?

Ans:-The least motion which the birds made seemed a thrill of pleasure to the poet.

3.Why does the poet say that he cannot measure the thoughts of the birds?

Ans:-The poet said that he cannot measure the thoughts of the birds because he was not sure that they could think.

4.How does the poet conclude that the birds were happy?

Ans:-By use the following line, ‘the least motion they made it seemed a thrill of pleasure’.

5.What did the birds around him do?

Ans:They hopped and played in great pleasure.

6.What impression did the least motion of objects of nature give the poet?

Ans:It gave the poet the impression that the objects of Nature enjoy a thrill of pleasure.

#### **STANZA-5**

The budding twigs spread out their fan,  
To catch the breezy air;  
And I must think, do all I can,  
That there was pleasure there.

### **WORDS & MEANINGS**

- 1.budding-beginning to develop
- 2.twig-a small thin branch of a tree or bush
- 3.fan-to blow air on
4. breeze-a light gentle wind

### **EXPLANATION OF THE FIFTH STANZA**

The breeze flowing is sweet and light, the twigs are spreading out as if to catch the sweet air and all the speaker can do is gather pleasure in their existence.

### **POSSIBLE QUESTIONS & ANSWERS**

1.According to the poet, why do the budding twigs spread out their fan?

Ans:To catch the breeze air.

2.Identify the visual image from the given stanza.

Ans:The budding twigs.

3.Why did the twigs spread out their fan?

Ans:To catch breezy air/to enjoy nature.

4.How did the poet get pleasure?

Ans:-On seeing the attempt of the twigs to catch the air.

5.What is breezy air?

Ans:The poet feels the pleasure of the gentle wind that was blowing in the power.

6.What does the poet mean by budding twigs?

Ans:The branches of the trees that were about to bloom.

### **STANZA-6**

If this belief from heaven be sent,  
If such be Nature's holy plan,  
Have I not reason to lament  
What man has made of man?

### **WORDS & MEANINGS**

1.holy-sacred

2.lament-to express grief

### **EXPLANATION OF THE SIXTH STANZA**

Nature has only holy plans for humanity. Instead of understanding that man's greed, materialism and selfishness kill himself and nature. In fact he has moved far away from nature .He becomes unholy and unleashes cruelty.

### **POSSIBLE QUESTIONS & ANSWERS**

1.What is nature's holy plan?

Ans:- Every being in nature should live in harmony.

2.Cite an example of Alliteration from the above lines.

Ans: Man has made of man.

3. Have I not reason to lament

What man has made of man? What is the mood of the poet in these lines?

Ans: Melancholy

4. Have I not reason to lament

What man has made of man? What does the poet mean by this expression?

Ans:-Everything in nature should exist in harmony. That is the holy plan of nature. The poet says that he has reason to lament when sees the destruction of his fellow beings among themselves and to nature.

5.According to the poet what is the belief sent from heaven?

Ans: Bring happiness every where.

6.What should be man's attitude towards nature?

Ans:-Man should live in harmony with nature. \_\_\_\_\_

7.Pick out an instance of visual image from the stanza.

Ans:heaven

8. If such be Nature's holy plan... What is the poetic device used in this line.

Ans:Personification

9.Explain the expression:- Nature's holy plan.

Ans:To fill everything with joy,beauty and peace.

### **POSSIBLE ANSWERS FOR THE SCAFFOLD QUESTIONS.(TEXTUAL)**

6.What is nature's holy plan? How does man work against it?

Ans :The holy plan of nature is that all forms of created objects should live in peace and harmony. But man is at war with man. Man is the enemy of man's life.

7. Suggest an alternative title for the poem.

Ans:Nature in its Splendour.

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