

# **The Bangle Sellers**

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# Introduction to the Poetess

- Name of the Poet: Sarojini Naidu(1879-1949)
- Education from Cambridge.
- She was a woman of intellect and zest.
- Started writing poetry at the age of eleven.
- At Cambridge, her teacher Edmund Gosse recognized her talent as a poetess.
- Her poems fill our heart with love and pride for our own culture and with the sweet fragrance of our land.
- She is remembered as ‘The Nightingale of India’.



# Introduction to the Poem

- The poem was first published in the book 'The Bird of Time'.
- A group of Bangle sellers is going to the temple fair.
- The narrator of the poem is one of them.
- They are poor people and their income from selling bangles is uncertain and meagre.
- However, their bangles have religious and symbolic significance.
- Each of the four stanzas describes bangles of different colours that will match the women wearing them.

# **The Bangle Sellers**

*Bangle sellers are we who bear  
Our shining loads to the temple fair...  
Who will buy these delicate, bright  
Rainbow-tinted circles of light?  
Lustrous tokens of radiant lives,  
For happy daughters and happy wives.*

*Some are meet for a maiden's wrist,  
Silver and blue as the mountain mist,  
Some are flushed like the buds that dream  
On the tranquil brow of a woodland stream,  
Some are aglow with the bloom that cleaves  
To the limpid glory of new born leaves*

# Continue...

*Some are like fields of sunlit corn,  
Meet for a bride on her bridal morn,  
Some, like the flame of her marriage fire,  
Or, rich with the hue of her heart's desire,  
Tinkling, luminous, tender, and clear,  
Like her bridal laughter and bridal tear.*

*Some are purple and gold flecked grey  
For she who has journeyed through life midway,  
Whose hands have cherished, whose love has blest,  
And cradled fair sons on her faithful breast,  
And serves her household in fruitful pride,  
And worships the gods at her husband's side.*

# Complete Summary

- The poem is a song sung by the bangle sellers.
- Through this song they attract buyers by describing their multi-coloured and shining bangles.
- Through their song they also tell as to bangles of which colour would be suitable for the different phases of the lives of young girls and the married ones.
- The bangle sellers tell in their song that they are on the way to the temple where a fair is held.
- Those who want to buy these bangles may purchase them.
- Some bangles are silver coloured and blue like mist on the mountains.
- Some bangles are rose coloured like flowers on the bank of a calmly flowing river through a jungle.
- Some bangles are shining and lively like the newly born leaves.
- All these bangles are fit for the wrists of maidens.
- The colour of some bangles is like the sun-lit fields of corn.
- Some bangles are colour of the new nuptial fire.
- Some bangles are coloured like the love in the hearts of brides.
- These bangles are tinkling and produce a sound clear like a bride's laughter or her tears.
- These bangles are fit to be worn by a bride for her marriage.

# Poetic Devices in the Poem

## 1. Alliteration

It is a poetic device in which the consonant sounds are repeated. Eg. 'delicate bright', 'lustrous tokens' etc.

## 2. Similes

A simile is a comparison of two unlike things in a sentence using the adverb 'as' or 'like'. Examples: 'blue as the mountain mist', 'flushed like the buds', 'some are like fields....' etc.

## 3. Metaphor

It is also a comparison of two or more dissimilar things to bring out a link between the two. Examples: 'rainbow tinted circles of light', 'lustrous tokens of radiant lives'.

## 4. Repetition

The word 'happy' in the 6<sup>th</sup> line and the word 'bridal' in the 12<sup>th</sup> line.

## 5. Rhyme

The rhyme scheme of the poem is fast. The last word of every line rhymes with the last word of the next line.

# Short Questions

- Why are the bangle sellers going to the temple fair?
- What is the apprehension in their minds?
- Who will buy the bangles?
- Why does the poetess call the bangles tokens of radiant lives?
- Explain the phrase 'journeyed through life midway'



# Long Questions

- Explain the beauty and significance of bangles as brought out by the poetess.
- Describe any two festivals where bangles hold special significance.
- Discuss the use of alliteration, similes, metaphors, rhyme schemes and repetition in the poem and the effect these poetic devices have on the poem.

# Vocabulary

**Give phonemic transcriptions of the following words:**

- a) Bear
- b) Delicate
- c) Circles
- d) Daughters
- e) Mountain
- f) Stream
- g) Bridal
- h) Tender
- i) Laughter
- j) Purple

# Vocabulary

**Supply synonyms for the following words.**

- a) Maiden girl
- b) Tinkling ringing
- c) Luminous shining
- d) Midway middle
- e) Fair beautiful
- f) Cleaves clings

**Supply antonyms for the following words.**

- a) Luminous dull
- b) Tranquil noisy
- c) Glory infamy
- d) Tender rough
- e) Sunlit dark
- f) Faithful unfaithful disloyal

# How to attempt a Question on 'Explanation with Reference to the Context'

*Some are like fields of sunlit corn,  
Meet for a bride on her bridal morn,  
Some, like the flame of her marriage fire,  
Or, rich with the hue of her heart's desire,  
Tinkling, luminous, tender, and clear,  
Like her bridal laughter and bridal tear.*

- Reference to the Context: These lines have been taken from the poem \_\_\_\_\_ (Name of the Poem) which is written by \_\_\_\_\_ (Name of the Poet). In this poem the poetess says that \_\_\_\_\_ (Theme of the Poem).
- Explanation: In these lines, the poetess \_\_\_\_\_ (Explain every line of the stanza in your own words in 5-6 sentences).

**THANK YOU**