

"The Lake Isle of Innisfree" by W. B. Yeats

Textual Question Answers – "The Lake Isle of Innisfree"

1. Where does the poet want to go?

→ The poet wants to go to **Innisfree**, a peaceful and quiet island in Ireland.

2. What kind of life does the poet dream of in Innisfree?

→ He dreams of a **simple life close to nature**, with a small cabin, a garden with beans, and a hive for honey bees. He desires peace and solitude.

3. What does "peace comes dropping slow" mean?

→ It means peace comes **gently and gradually**, like a natural and calming presence, especially in the quiet atmosphere of Innisfree.

4. What is the tone of the poem?

→ The tone is **peaceful, nostalgic, and meditative**. It reflects the poet's deep longing for a tranquil life in nature.

5. Why does the poet long to go to Innisfree?

→ Because he wants to escape the **noisy, stressful urban life** and return to a peaceful, natural setting that offers serenity.

6. What does the "deep heart's core" refer to?

→ It refers to the poet's **innermost feelings or desires**—his soul's longing for the peace and beauty of Innisfree.

20 Short and Long Answer Questions with Answers

◆ Short Answer Type (30–50 words)

1. Describe the setting of Innisfree.

→ Innisfree is portrayed as a peaceful, natural place with a small cabin, a garden with beans, and a hive for honey bees. It's surrounded by the quietness of lake water, birdsong, and soft light.

2. What does the poet plan to do in Innisfree?

→ He plans to build a small cabin of clay and wattles, grow beans, keep bees, and live in solitude surrounded by nature's peace.

3. How does the city contrast with Innisfree in the poem?

→ The city is noisy and artificial, while Innisfree is quiet and natural. The city lacks the spiritual peace that the poet longs for.

4. What time of day imagery is used in the poem?

→ Yeats uses **morning, noon, evening, and midnight** imagery to show how every moment in Innisfree is filled with peace and beauty.

5. **Explain the line “I hear it in the deep heart’s core.”**

→ It means the poet hears the call of Innisfree deep within his soul, suggesting a strong emotional and spiritual yearning for peace.

6. **What does the poet mean by “bee-loud glade”?**

→ It means a **sunlit, quiet clearing** in nature where the **buzzing of bees** is the only sound—symbolizing harmony with nature.

7. **How does Yeats describe peace in the poem?**

→ Peace is described as something that **comes slowly**, like dew falling or gentle light spreading, making the place tranquil and spiritual.

8. **What kind of life does Yeats reject?**

→ He rejects the **urban, materialistic life** filled with noise and restlessness, longing instead for a **natural and peaceful existence**.

9. **How does sound play a role in the poem?**

→ Sounds like **lake water, bees buzzing, and linnets flying** create a serene, sensory atmosphere, contrasting with the city's noise.

10. **What do the natural images in the poem symbolize?**

→ They symbolize **simplicity, tranquility, and a return to the soul’s true home**—a life lived in harmony with nature.

◆ **Long Answer Type (100–150 words)**

11. **Discuss the central theme of “The Lake Isle of Innisfree.”**

→ The central theme is **escape and longing for peace**. Yeats contrasts the noisy, stressful city life with the quiet, natural beauty of Innisfree. The poem expresses the poet’s desire to return to a place where he can find **spiritual renewal**. Innisfree symbolizes the ideal life—a life in touch with nature and removed from material concerns.

12. **How does Yeats create a peaceful mood in the poem?**

→ Yeats uses **soft imagery** of nature—like “bee-loud glade,” “midnight’s all a glimmer,” and “peace comes dropping slow”—to create a **soothing, gentle atmosphere**. The poem’s rhythm and calm tone reinforce the sense of tranquility he longs for.

13. **Explain how the poem reflects the poet’s inner conflict.**

→ Yeats stands in the city but dreams of Innisfree. This shows his **inner conflict between modern life and the desire for simplicity**. Though physically in the city, his heart and soul yearn for nature.

14. **What poetic devices are used in the poem?**

→ Yeats uses **imagery**, **alliteration** (“bee-loud glade”), **symbolism** (Innisfree as an ideal), and **assonance** to convey emotion and enhance the peaceful rhythm of the poem.

15. **What is the significance of Innisfree in Yeats’s life?**

→ Innisfree is a **real place** Yeats visited in childhood, but in the

poem, it becomes a **symbol of peace, memory, and spiritual escape**, reflecting his personal and poetic ideals.