

LIRA TOWNN COLLEGE
BEGINNING OF TERM II EXAMS, 2009
S.6 LITERATURE IN ENGLISH P/ 310/ 1 (PROSE AND POETRY)

TIME: 1 HOUR.

Read the Poem below carefully and answer the questions asked after it.

AFTERWARDS

When the present has latched its postern behind my tremulous stay,
And the May month flaps its glad green leaves like wings,
Delicate filmed as new-spun silk, will the neighbours say,
“He was a man who used to notice such things”?

If it be in the dusk when, like an eyelid’s soundless blink,
The dewfall- hawk comes crossing the shades to a light
Upon the wind-wrapped upland thorn, a gazer may think,
“To him this must have been a familiar sight”

If I pass during some during some nocturnal blackness, mothy and warm,
When the hedgehog travels furtively over the lawn,
One may say, “ He strove that such innocent creatures should come to no harm.
But he could do little for them; and now he is gone”.

If, when hearing that I have been stilled at last, they stand at the door,
Watching the full-starred heavens that winter sees,
Will this thought rise on those who will meet my face no more,
“He was one who had an eye for such mysteries”?

And will any say when my bell of quittance is heard in the gloom,
And a crossing breeze cuts a pause in its out-rollings,
Till they rise again, as they were a new bell’s boom
“He hears it not now, but used to notice such things”?

(Thomas Hardy)

Questions:

- a). What impression of Hardy and his attitude to life and death, do you obtain from reading this poem.
- b). Pick out four figuration expressions (smiles or metaphors form the poem and say what you think Hardy is trying to suggest in each of them.
- c). What would you say is the effect of hardy’s speaking his thoughts a loud in this way?

THE END

