

Poem - Chapter 4

A Thing of Beauty

Before you read : Solutions of Questions on Page Number : **98**

Question:

What pleasure does a beautiful thing give us? Are beautiful things worth treasuring?

Answer :

The world is filled with negative elements which make our life dull, sad, depressing and bereft of hope. In such moments, a beautiful thing gives us everlasting joy and helps us forget our sorrows. Yes, a beautiful thing is worth treasuring because even its memory soothes our nerves and inspires us to overcome the challenges of life. *(A model answer has been provided for students' reference. It is strongly recommended that students themselves prepare the answer based on their own experience.)*

Think it out : Solutions of Questions on Page Number : **99**

Question:

List the things of beauty mentioned in the poem.

Answer :

According to the poet, there are numerous things of beauty that help us forget our sorrows. These are the sun, the moon, old and young trees that provide shade to 'simple sheep', daffodils, clear streams of rivers, musk-roses in the forest and the lovely tales of mighty men.

Question:

List the things that cause suffering and pain.

Answer :

The poet lists a number of things that cause suffering and pain, such as despondency, depression, unhealthy and wrong ways taken up by humans to acquire their desired goals, etc. The poet also feels that there is a real dearth of noble souls in this world.

Question:

What does the line, 'Therefore are we wreathing a flowery band to bind us to earth' suggest to you?

Answer :

This line suggests that things of beauty bind us to the earth with a beautiful connection. According to the

poet, even if the world is not worth living because of the innumerable reasons that ultimately result in gloom and depression, the zeal to live a happy and content life can be derived from the sight of the beautiful bounties of nature around us.

Question:

What makes human beings love life in spite of troubles and sufferings?

Answer :

Human beings love life in spite of troubles and sufferings because of the existence of several natural and beautiful things around them. These things of beauty never fade. They give joy and optimism to human mind, and thus, help in overcoming or bearing the troubles and sufferings.

Question:

Why is 'grandeur' associated with the 'mighty dead'?

Answer :

The 'grandeur' of the 'mighty dead' lies in their noble deeds. They have left behind the beautiful legacy of their brave acts. Their selfless sacrifice for their nation and deeds for the welfare of mankind still continue to inspire us.

Question:

Do we experience things of beauty only for short moments or do they make a lasting impression on us?

Answer :

The poet believes that when we encounter a beautiful thing, even for a small moment, the pleasure remains with us forever. It leaves a lasting impression that inspires us to live life with hope and optimism.

Question:

What image does the poet use to describe the beautiful bounty of the earth?

Answer :

The poet uses the image of 'an endless fountain of immortal drink' to describe the beautiful bounty of the earth. The earth, like a fountain, pours unto us numerous beautiful sights like the sun, the moon, flowers, rivers and greenery