

The Trees – Revision Notes

Summary

- The poem describes how trees are leaving the houses and moving back to the forest.
- In the poet's imagery, trees are seen struggling to move out of the closed rooms where humans have kept them.
- The poet observes this silently at night, comparing the movement of trees to:
 - A forest moving into the open,
 - Roots breaking free,
 - Branches pushing through doors and windows.
- The poem symbolizes nature's desire for freedom and its return to its rightful place.
- It conveys the message that nature cannot be confined; it always strives to grow and be free.

Theme

- Man vs. Nature → Human beings try to control nature, but nature seeks freedom.
- Freedom and Rebirth → Trees moving back to forests symbolize renewal.
- Environmental Awareness → Nature belongs in its natural habitat, not in artificial surroundings.

Symbols

- Trees in the house → Suppressed nature, restricted environment.
- Forest → Freedom, growth, and natural habitat.
- Roots breaking → Nature breaking free from human control.

Message of the Poem

Nature should not be confined for human use or decoration.

- True beauty of trees is in the forest, not in houses.
- Just like trees, every living being desires freedom and space to grow.

Literary Devices

- Personification → Trees are described as moving and struggling like humans.
- Imagery → Visuals of roots breaking, doors creaking, trees moving at night.
- Enjambment → Sentences flow without pause.
- Metaphor → Trees = suppressed nature/people seeking freedom.

? Short Questions & Answers

- 1. Who is the poet of *The Trees*?
 - 👉 Adrienne Rich.
- 2. What is happening to the trees in the poem?
 - **** They are moving out of the houses back to the forest.**
- 3. Why does the poet describe the movement of trees at night?
 - **t** To show it as a silent revolution of nature seeking freedom.
- 4. What does the forest symbolize in the poem?
 - Freedom, natural habitat, and renewal of life.

Long Q&A

Q1. How is the poem *The Trees* a symbol of freedom and revolt?

Answer: The trees moving out of houses symbolize nature's revolt against human confinement. Their struggle to break roots, push doors, and move into the forest represents a fight for freedom. The poem is an extended metaphor for suppressed forces—whether nature or humans—that ultimately break free.

Q2. What message does Adrienne Rich convey in the poem?

Answer: The poet emphasizes that trees and nature do not belong indoors, where they are lifeless and confined. Their rightful place is in the forest, where they can grow freely. The poem is also a metaphor for human beings seeking liberation from oppression.

- 1. What does the poem teach students?
 - **GRESPECT** rature, allow freedom, and understand the importance of living in harmony with the environment.
- 2. What can society learn from the trees in the poem?
 - **trive** to break free.