

The Coromandel Fishers

A. Answer the following questions in a word, a phrase or a sentence each.

1. Who is the speaker in the poem?

Answer: A fisherman.

2. What does the phrase 'wakening skies' refer to?

Answer: The dawn breaking.

3. Who prays to God in the first lines?

Answer: The wakening skies.

4. How can the fishermen let free their catamarans?

Answer: By gathering their nets from the shore.

5. What does 'leaping wealth' refer to?

Answer: Abundant fish in the sea.

6. Why should the fishermen follow 'the track of the seagull's call'?

Answer: Because it leads them to the sea.

7. What could be the sound of the voices they love?

Answer: Voices of their family members or loved ones.

8. In what sense are the sounds 'sweet'?

Answer: Pleasant and enjoyable.

9. True to its genre, the poem makes use of many sound devices which make it musical.

a) List all the rhyming words in the poem. In pairs, read them aloud.

Answer: skies/prize, night/light, free/sea, etc.

b) What is the rhyme scheme used in the poem?

Answer: ab ab

c) Repetition of sounds and words is an important feature of music. The poet uses different types of repetition.

i. Repetition of consonant sounds in sequence is called consonance. Pick out consonant sounds repeated four times in the first line.

Answer: /s/ and /k/ sounds

ii. Pick more examples of consonance from lines 2, 5, 9 and 10.

Answer: /w/ and /l/ sounds

iii. Pick out words repeated in the poem.

Answer: "brothers", "sea", etc.

d. Alliteration is the repetition of consonant sounds in successive words occurring especially at the beginning of words. Pick out examples of alliteration from lines 4, 8 and 10.

Answer: "sweet shade", "sound of the sea", etc.

e. Assonance is a sound device where vowels are repeated. Pick out an example of assonance from the first two lines.

Answer: "rise" and "skies"

10. The poem is also rich in its sensuous appeal. Pick at least one example of each of the images that appeal to your

a. sense of sight (visual imagery)

Answer: "the wakening skies pray to the morning light"

b. sense of hearing (auditory imagery)

Answer: "the sound of the voices we love"

c. sense of smell (olfactory imagery)

Answer: "the scent of the mango grove"

d. sense of touch (tactile imagery)

Answer: "the dance of the wild foam's glee"

11. Read line 2 again.

a) What two things are personified in the line?

Answer: The wind and the dawn

b) Explain the simile in the line.

Answer: The wind is compared to a child that has cried all night.

12. Pick any two other examples of personification in the poem.

Answer: The sea is personified as a mother, and the cloud is personified as a brother.

B. Answer the following questions in two or three sentences each.

1. What does the speaker say about the relationship between the fishermen and the sea?

Answer: The speaker describes the relationship between the fishermen and the sea as one of harmony and interdependence. The sea is their source of livelihood, and they respect and reverence it. The speaker also highlights the joy and freedom that the fishermen experience on the sea.

2. How does the speaker establish that the joy of the fishermen is greater on the sea than the shore?

Answer: The speaker establishes that the joy of the fishermen is greater on the sea than the shore by describing the thrill and excitement of fishing, the beauty of the sea, and the sense of freedom and adventure that comes with being on the water. The speaker also contrasts the joys of the sea with the pleasures of the shore, suggesting that the former are more intense and fulfilling.

For Exam:

1. The poem is a reflection of a long established harmony and synergy between man and nature. Do you think that the technology today has destroyed that harmony? How?

The poem "The Coromandel Fishers" by Sarojini Naidu is a beautiful portrayal of the harmony and synergy between man and nature. The poem highlights the interconnectedness of human life and the natural world, and how the fishermen's livelihood is deeply rooted in the sea. However, with the advent of technology, this harmony has been disrupted.

Technology has led to the exploitation of natural resources, pollution, and destruction of habitats. The fishing industry, for example, has become more mechanized, leading to overfishing and depletion of fish populations. This has not only harmed the environment but also affected the livelihoods of fishermen who depend on the sea for their survival.

Furthermore, technology has also led to the erosion of traditional ways of life. The poem celebrates the traditional way of life of the fishermen, their connection with nature, and their sense of community. However, with the advent of technology, many of these traditional ways of life are being lost.

In conclusion, while technology has brought many benefits, it has also disrupted the harmony and synergy between man and nature. It is essential that we find a balance between technological progress and environmental sustainability to preserve the beauty and wonder of the natural world.

2. Do you like the poem? State your reasons.

Yes, I like the poem "The Coromandel Fishers" by Sarojini Naidu. One of the reasons I like the poem is its beautiful and vivid imagery. The poem is full of sensory details that transport the reader to the world of the fishermen. The imagery is not only visual but also auditory, olfactory, and tactile, making the poem a rich and immersive experience.

Another reason I like the poem is its celebration of traditional ways of life. The poem highlights the importance of preserving traditional skills and knowledge, and the value of living in harmony with nature. The poem also celebrates the sense of community and camaraderie that exists among the fishermen, which is an essential part of human experience.

Finally, I like the poem because of its musical quality. The poem has a beautiful rhythm and rhyme scheme, which makes it a pleasure to read aloud. The use of alliteration, assonance, and consonance adds to the poem's musicality, making it a joy to read and recite.

Overall, I think "The Coromandel Fishers" is a beautiful and captivating poem that celebrates the beauty of nature, traditional ways of life, and the human experience.