1. In the poem ‘The Heart of the tree’ which question does the poet ask? Why? 2

Ans. The poet asks ‘What does he plant who plants a tree?’ He repeatedly asks the question to emphasize that when a person plants a tree, he actually plants a lot of things which have an everlasting positive effect on the mankind.

1. Explain: ‘He plants the forest’s heritage’. 3

Ans. When a person plants a sapling, it grows into a tree after some years. The seeds enclosed in the fruit of the tree get scattered and give birth to more trees resulting in the creation of forests. This cycle continues and thus the tree passes on a legacy in the form of a forest.

1. Who does the ‘unborn eyes’ refer to? What will they see? How will they react? 3

Ans. The ‘unborn eyes’ refer to the unborn children of the future generations. These children will see the tree planted by its ancestors now fully grown, and then they will be filled with joy.

1. Though the poem was written long ago, is it relevant in the modern times also? 4

Ans. The poem strongly conveys the message that planting trees is very important for the growth and welfare of humanity at large. This poem was written long ago when there wasn’t so much of a threat to our planet as it is today, yet the poem has highlighted the importance of planting trees. In today’s modern times it is required even more because it is a well-known fact that excessive deforestation has posed a great threat to the survival of the planet.

1. What does Antonio wish to learn at the start of the scene? 2

Ans. Antonio is melancholic at the start of the scene. He wishes to learn how he caught it, found it, came by it and what stuff it is made up of and whereof it is born.

1. What does Salerio swear by the two-headed Janus? 3

Ans. Salerio swears by the two headed Janus that nature had framed strange fellows. Some people would evermore peep through their eyes and laugh like parrots at bagpiper. The others of such vinegar aspect that they would not show their teeth to smile even though Nestor swears that the jest is laughable.

1. What role does Gratiano want to play? How does he want his life to be? 4

Ans. Gratiano wants to play the fool. He wants old wrinkles to come with mirth and laughter and have his liver heat with wine than his heart with mortifying groans. He says that why should a man sit like his grandfather’s alabaster statue and be passive like that, sleep when he wakes and creep into jaundice by being peevish.

1. What does Bassanio say about Portia? 4

Ans. Bassanio calls Portia as rich, fair and virtuous. He says that this Portia is not less in value to Cato’s daughter Portia. The world is not ignorant of her worth and renowned suitors come from all the four directions. Her sunny locks hang on her temple like a golden fleece and Belmont has become Colchis’ strand. Many Jasons come in quest of her and he believed, because of the fair speechless messages that she had given, he would be the one who would be fortunate.