

Poem
06

A Sindhi Woman

(Jan Stallworthy)

Words and Expressions

undulant	–	wave-like; rising and falling	موج دار، گھٹا بڑھتا ہوا، لچکدار
grace	–	beauty; dignity	شان، خوبصورتی، حُسن
glide	–	move smoothly	روانی سے یا نرمی سے چلنا
ripple	–	disturbance; a small wave; undulation	ہلکورہ، جھٹکا
tread	–	step; walk; gait	چال
erect	–	upraised; straight; upright	سیدھا۔ بغیر خم کے
garbage	–	rubbish; waste	کوڑا
excrement	–	waste matter; filth; dung; dirt	فضلہ، گوبر، غلاظت
crumbs	–	bits; fragments	ٹکڑے، کرچیاں
slum	–	poor area; shack	غریب بستی۔ کچی آبادی
stoop	–	droop; bent posture	خم
reflect	–	think; contemplate; ponder	سوچنا
straight	–	upright; erect	سیدھا

Multiple Choice Questions

Choose the correct synonym.

- And with the same **undulant** grace. 11624001
A) wave-like B) whirling
C) swift D) charming
- And with the same undulant **grace**. 11624002
A) turbulence B) greatness
C) elegance D) gait
- She **glides** with a stone jar. 11624003
A) moves slowly B) moves swiftly
C) moves smoothly D) runs softly
- And not a **ripple** in her tread. 11624004
A) footfall B) smoothness
C) pace D) disturbance
- And not a ripple in her **tread**.
A) gait B) path
C) burden D) quest
- Watching her cross **erect** Stones, garbage...
A) enormous B) flat
C) upright D) rounded
- Stones, **garbage**, excrement and crumbs.
A) pebbles B) mud
C) rubbish D) ruins
- Stones, garbage, **excrement** and crumbs...
A) waste matter B) assortment
C) crack D) soil
- Stones, garbage, excrement and **crumbs**...
A) bits B) stones
C) pebbles D) layers

10. Stones, garbage, excrement and crumbs
Of glass in the Karachi slums.

- A) bazaars B) streets
C) poor areas D) posh localities

11. I, with my stoop, reflect.

- A) gait B) droop
C) elation D) body

12. I, with my stoop, reflect.

- A) appreciate B) watch
C) neglect D) contemplate

13. They stand most straight / Who learn to
walk beneath a weight.

- A) burdened B) upright
C) intelligent D) convenient

Answers

1.	A	3.	C	5.	A	7.	C	9.	A	11.	B	13.	B
2.	C	4.	D	6.	C	8.	A	10.	C	12.	D		

Questions and Answers

Q.1 What does the Sindhi Woman carry and how does she walk? **OR**

Describe the Sindhi Woman's walk through the bazaar. OR (Board 2022)

How does a Sindhi Woman walk? (Board 2022)

Ans. The Sindhi woman carries a heavy stone jar high on her head. Still she walks smoothly and gracefully. The uneven path does not produce any jerk or jolt in her graceful gait.

Q.2 What kind of place does the Sindhi woman pass through?

Ans. The Sindhi woman passes barefooted through the streets of Karachi slums. Heaps of garbage, excrement, and crumbs of glass are lying all about on her way.

Q.3 What picture of the Karachi slums do you get after reading the poem? (Board 2007)11624016

Ans. While reading the poem, we observe the miserable conditions of the poor and dirty areas of Karachi. The narrow and unpaved streets are full of rubbish, stones and other refuse. Small pieces of broken glass are lying everywhere in these dirty streets of the Karachi slums.

Q.4 What is the most appealing quality of the Sindhi woman? **OR** (Board 2008)

What makes the Sindhi woman impressive?

Ans. The most appealing quality of the Sindhi woman is her perseverance and resolve with which she faces the hard conditions and laborious challenges of life and still remains upright. She symbolizes resilience in the face of hardships.

Q.5 What is the theme of "A Sindhi Woman"?

OR

What message does the poet convey to the readers?

OR

What does the poet reflect when he sees the Sindhi Woman?

Ans. The graceful and erect carriage of the woman with a heavy stone jar on her head, catches the imagination of the poet. He believes that those who never give up their struggle and never give in to the hardships, always maintain their grace and self-respect under trying conditions.

Q.6 Who is the author of the poem "A Sindhi Woman"?

Ans. Jan Stallworthy is the author of "A Sindhi Woman"

Explanation with Reference to the Context

Stanza 1:

Bare foot, through the bazaar,
And with the same undulant grace
As the cloth blown back from her face,
She glides with a stone jar,
High on her head
And not a ripple in her tread.

(Board 2015)

Reference:

These lines have been taken from the poem "A Sindhi Woman" written by Jan Stallworthy.

Context:

The poet shows a woman labourer who passes through the bazaar with a heavy jar on her head. She is quite at ease with her load and there is no ripple in her walk. The poet observes that only those who bear the burden and face the hardships of life stay strong and straight.

Explanation:

The poet pays tribute to the Sindhi woman who carries a heavy stone jar on her head and walks through the bazaar barefoot. Her graceful tread and bearing excite poet's imagination. She is walking impressively with the delicacy and rhythm of a wave. There is precision and something much practised in her gait. She moves ahead without any stumble in her tread. The weight does not make her walk uneasy in any way. She lives a hard life with all its woes and worries. Her shabby clothing and modest living may not eclipse the elements of beauty and elegance. The rhythm and flow in her tread suggests a positive attitude towards life even in the most adverse conditions.

Stanza2:

Watching her cross erect
Stones, garbage, excrement and crumbs
Of glass in the Karachi slums,
I, with my stoop, reflect:
They stand most straight
Who learn to walk beneath a weight.

(Board 2014)

Reference:

These lines have been taken from the poem "A Sindhi Woman" written by Jan Stallworthy.

Context:

The poet shows a woman labourer who passes through the bazaar with a heavy jar on her head. She is quite at ease with her load and there is no ripple in her walk. The poet observes that only those who bear the burden and face the hardships of life stay strong and straight.

Explanation:

The lines present a vivid scene of Karachi slums, unveiling the ugliness found there. The path is uneven and strewn with stones, dirt, filth, excrement and pieces of broken glass. But they are no obstacles to the Sindhi woman. She walks through them with unmatched grace and balance. The poet meditates and compares his own stooping gait with the majestic deportment (*bearing, behaviour, manner*) of the Sindhi woman. The woman gave the poet a reticent message in life – the message of hard work, diligence and perseverance. The poet feels instructed. He comes to the conclusion that arduous trials and tribulations of fluctuating destiny bring out the best in us. Those who carry the weight walk more erectly and uprightly than those who shun the hardships of life and seek shelter in bodily comforts.