

Poem
09

The Feed

(Ahmed Nadeem Qasmi)

Words and Expressions

millet	–	cereal; grain	باجرا
tiny	–	small; little	بہت چھوٹا، ننھا سا
Conjoin	–	join; link; unite	ملانا۔ جوڑنا
solace	–	soothe; console; comfort	تسلی دینا
fissure	–	split or cause to split	ٹوڑنا
wail	–	groan; cry; weep; moan	رونا۔ آہ وزاری کرنا

Multiple Choice Questions

Choose the correct synonym.

- Holding** a grain of millet in her beak...
A) splitting B) fissuring
C) having D) knowing
- Holding a **grain** of millet in her beak...
A) particle B) lump
C) shoot D) slice
- Holding a grain of **millet** in her beak...
A) fruit B) cereal
C) vegetable D) meat
- The young ones are so **tiny** and small...
A) small B) plump
C) hungry D) round
- Conjoining** beak with beak...
A) feeding B) breaking
C) severing D) joining
- With whom should she **solace**?
A) snub B) ignore
C) soothe D) rely
- Fissuring** the atom / You have learnt to weep and wail in a loud tone...
A) inventing B) splitting
C) mixing D) utilizing
- You have learnt to weep and **wail** in a loud tone.
A) giggle B) devastate
C) groan D) cheer up
- You have learnt to weep and wail **in a loud tone**.
A) mournfully B) in a hushed tone
C) consequently D) loudly
- Splitting** the grain...
A) holding B) breaking
C) putting D) finding
- You have learnt to **set life on foot**.
A) weep and wail B) understand life
C) destroy life D) support life

Answers

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

Questions and Answers

Q.1 What does the mother sparrow hold in her beak?

Ans. The sparrow holds a grain of millet in her beak. She has to feed her ten young ones.

Q.2 Which line in the first stanza tells us that the young ones have no feathers?

Ans. The lines, 'From head to toe they are beaks / When they cry', tell us that the young ones have no feathers.

Q.3 What is the number and size of the sparrow's young ones? (Board 2008)

Ans. They are ten in number and so small that they look like beaks from head to toe.

Q.4 What is the theme of the poem "The Feed"?

OR

What message does the poet convey in the "The Feed"?

OR

What do you feel after reading the poem "The Feed"? (Board 2016)

Ans. In the "The Feed" the poet highlights the most serious problem of the world i.e. less food and more mouths to feed. He criticizes man for fissuring the atom to create destruction. Man should use his knowledge to support life rather than to destroy it.

Q.5 Who wrote the poem "The Feed"?

Ans. Ahmed Nadeem Qasmi wrote the poem "The Feed".

Q.6 "One grain to be fed to the ten young ones" what does the line mean? (Board 2016)

Ans. Nature has blessed every living creature with an art of living. The mother sparrow has only one grain of millet to feed her ten young ones. She cannot favour the one, promise another and console the other. She breaks the grain of millet and feeds all of them equally.

Q.7 Why is mother sparrow worried in the poem, "The Feed"? (Lahore Board 2019) 11627017a

Ans. The mother sparrow has only one grain to feed her ten children. They are hungry and are crying for food. She is confused as to whom should she feed and with whom should she solace. The challenge she is facing is how to feed all the young ones at the same time

Explanation with Reference to the Context

Stanza 1:

Holding a grain of millet in her beak
The mother sparrow has come to feed.
The young ones are so tiny and small
From head to toe they are beaks
When they cry.

(Board 2010,12)

Reference:

These lines have been taken from the poem "The Feed" by Ahmed Nadeem Qasmi.

Context:

In the "The Feed" the poet highlights the most serious problem of the world i.e. less food and more mouths to feed. He criticizes man for fissuring the atom to create destruction. Man should use his knowledge to support life rather than to destroy it.

Explanation:

The poet captures a scene from the nest of a sparrow. The mother sparrow has only one grain of millet to feed her ten young ones. They are so tiny that they are only a piece of flesh from head

to toe. They open their beaks for the grain of millet. Their cries win the attention of the poet. Actually the poem underlines the problem of the scarcity of food. The suggestion is that man should try to remove hunger and misery rather than split the atom and create destruction.

Stanza 2:

To whom the mother sparrow should feed?
Conjoining beak with beak
With whom should she solace?

Reference:

These lines have been taken from the poem "The Feed" by Ahmed Nadeem Qasmi.

Context:

In the "The Feed" the poet highlights the most serious problem of the world i.e. less food and more mouths to feed. He criticizes man for fissuring the atom to create destruction. Man should use his knowledge to support life rather than destroy it.

Explanation:

The ten baby sparrows are hungry and are crying for food. The mother sparrow is in a strange predicament. She has only one grain of millet to feed them. She can do so only by splitting that grain into ten pieces. But it wouldn't be easy to play fair and make an equal distribution. For example, Pakistan has a big population but the available resources fall short for her teeming population.

Stanza 3:

Fissuring the atom,
You have learnt to weep and wail in a loud tone,
Splitting the grain,
You have learnt to set life on foot
Could you split the grain?
One grain to be fed to the ten young ones.

Reference:

These lines have been taken from the poem "The Feed" by Ahmed Nadeem Qasmi.

Context:

In the "The Feed" the poet highlights the most serious problem of the world i.e. less food and more mouths to feed. He criticizes man for fissuring the atom to create destruction. Man should use his knowledge to support life rather than destroy it.

Explanation:

The poem captures a scene from a sparrow's nest. The mother sparrow has only one grain of millet to feed her ten young ones. The baby sparrows are crying for food but the problem is how the mother sparrow can feed them with only one grain. The situation refers to the problem of hunger and misery in the world. The poem criticizes man for using his knowledge of science to split the atom and create large-scale destruction. He urges man to use his knowledge to resolve the problem of food scarcity and ensure a fair distribution of food instead of making atom bombs to destroy life.