

Poem
03

Loveliest of Trees, the Cherry Now

(A. E. Housman)

Words and Expressions

hung	–	laden; loaded	لدا ہوا۔ بھرا ہوا
bloom	–	blossom; mass of flowers	پھول۔ شگوفے
woodland	–	woods; forest	جنگل
Easter tide	–	Easter time	ایسٹر کا وقت
bough	–	branch; limb	شاخ۔ ٹہنی
score	–	twenty; group of twenty	بیس
room	–	space; span; scope; opportunity	وقت۔ دورانیہ
Easter	–	Easter or Resurrection Sunday, is a festival and holiday commemorating the resurrection of Jesus from the dead, described in the New Testament as having occurred on the third day after his burial following his crucifixion by the Romans at Calvary c. 30 AD.	عید الفصح۔ مسیح کے از سر نو زندہ ہونے کا تہوار
Tide	–	It also means an ecclesiastical (relating to the Christian Church or its clergy) anniversary or festival; also, its season	موقع، تہوار، مذہبی حوالے سے

Multiple Choice Questions

Choose the correct synonym.

- Is **hung** with bloom along the bough.
 - relaxed
 - lifted
 - laden
 - shot
- Is hung with **bloom** along the bough.
 - leaves
 - branches
 - blossom
 - fragrance
- Is hung with bloom along the **bough**.
 - branch
 - trunk
 - leaves
 - petal
- Wearing white for Easter **tide**.
 - time
 - custom
 - tradition
 - preparation
- Now, of my **three score years and ten**.
(Board 2018)
 - fifty years
 - sixty years
 - seventy years
 - eighty years
- And take from seventy springs a **score**.
 - ten
 - twenty
 - thirty
 - forty
- Fifty Springs are little **room**.
 - joy
 - place
 - profit
 - scope
- And since to look at things in **bloom**.
 - beauty
 - full swing
 - fascination
 - sadness

Answers

1. C 2. C 3. A 4. A 5. C 6. B 7. D 8. B

Questions and Answers

- Q.1** What time of the year is mentioned in the first stanza of the poem?
Ans. Spring season and the Easter time have been mentioned in the first stanza of the poem. Spring is a time when the beauty of nature is most captivating.
- Q.2** What does the poem "Loveliest of Trees, the Cherry Now" glorify?
Ans. The poem "Loveliest of Trees, the Cherry Now" glorifies nature. It suggests that spring and autumn are two aspects of nature and have their own beauty.
- Q.3** What time of life would not come again?
Ans. The twenty years of the poet's youth would not come again because he has already enjoyed the twenty springs of his life.
- Q.4** Why are fifty springs little time to see the cherry trees? (Board 2008)
Ans. The poet is so much fascinated by the glory of the blooming objects of nature that he finds fifty years of life too short a period to enjoy the beauty of the cherry trees. Human life is transient and so are the joys of life.
- Q.5** What is the theme of the poem "Loveliest of Trees, the Cherry Now"?
Ans. The poem revolves around the universal emotions of poet's love for nature, nostalgia for the past and pathos for man's brief existence in this world.
- Q.6** What is Easter? (Board 2010)
Ans. Easter is a festival of the Christians. It is celebrated to commemorate the Resurrection of Christ. It is observed on the first Sunday after a full moon, after the spring equinox.
(equinox: the time or date (twice each year) at which the sun crosses the celestial equator, when day and night are of equal length, around 22 September and 20 March) Easter's celebration date changes every year.
- Q.7** How does the poet plan to spend the small period of his remaining life of fifty years? (Board 2015)
Ans. Having spent the first twenty years of his life in fascination of the springtime beauty of nature, the poet resolves to thrill his soul with the autumnal charm of nature too. He will not miss the opportunity to go to the woodland and enjoy the beauty of the cherry tree.
- Q.8** Why does the poet consider cherry the loveliest of the trees? (Board 2017)
Ans. The poet is fascinated by the cherry and considers it the loveliest of all the trees. It stands along the path in the woods and enhances its beauty. It is laden with white flowers that enchant the viewers. It seems that the cherry tree has put on a white dress to celebrate the festival of Easter.
- Q.8** How does Cherry add to the glory of Easter? (Lahore Board 2019) 11621016a
Ans. Cherry tree blooms in spring and enhances the glory of Easter. It brings forth beautiful white flowers. Wearing white at Easter is a Christian tradition; here nature seems to have adopted the custom. It also suggests purity, renewal, and rebirth – the idea associated with the Easter story.

Explanation with Reference to the Context

Stanza 1:

Loveliest of trees the cherry now
 Is hung with bloom along the bough
 And stands about the woodland ride
 Wearing white for Easter tide.

Reference:

These lines have been taken from "Loveliest of Trees, the Cherry Now" by A. E. Housman.

Context:

The poem revolves around the universal emotions of poet's love for nature, nostalgia for the past and pathos for man's brief existence on earth. While he considers the perpetual rebirth of nature, he is reminded sharply that of his biblical "threescore years and ten", and further calculation of his mortality. He becomes aware of his own transience in the midst of nature's splendor.

Explanation:

The poet's heart is moved and inspired by the cherry in bloom. Its branches are loaded with flowers and this presents a wonderful picture. Everything looks to be clad in (*clothed; dressed*) white. When the poet sees the cherry trees covered with blossoms along the woodland ride, he imagines that these trees are ready to join the festivities (*celebrations*) of the Easter. The stanza is a unique specimen of the poet's love for nature. The poet has made use of beautiful imagery.

Stanza 2:

Now, of my three score years and ten
Twenty will not come again,
And take from seventy Springs a score,
It only leaves me fifty more.

Reference:

These lines have been taken from "Loveliest of Trees, the Cherry Now" by A. E. Housman.

Context:

The poem revolves around the universal emotions of poet's love for nature, nostalgia for the past and pathos for man's brief existence on earth. While he considers the perpetual rebirth of nature, he is reminded sharply that of his biblical "threescore years and ten", and further calculation of his mortality. He becomes aware of his own transience in the midst of nature's splendor.

Explanation:

The poet says that according to the Bible, man's average age is seventy years. The poet has enjoyed nature for twenty years. He feels sad when he thinks that those twenty years will never come back. If he takes twenty years from the biblical seventy years, he will be left with fifty years to enjoy the beauty of nature. The poet is so enthralled (*spell-bound; fascinated*) by the beauty of the cherry trees that he uses the word springs instead of years. The word "only" tells us that the remaining time of his life is not enough to enjoy the beauty of nature.

Stanza 3:

And since to look at things in bloom
Fifty Springs are little room,
About the woodland I will go
To see the cherry hung with snow.

Reference:

These lines have been taken from "Loveliest of Trees, the Cherry Now" by A. E. Housman.

Context:

The poem revolves around the universal emotions of poet's love for nature, nostalgia for the past and pathos for man's brief existence on earth. While he considers the perpetual rebirth of nature, he is reminded sharply that of his biblical "threescore years and ten", and further calculation of his mortality. He becomes aware of his own transience in the midst of nature's splendor.

Explanation:

The poet thinks that life is too short to enjoy the beauty of nature. So far he has been appreciating only the springtime beauty of nature. But now after twenty years of his youth, a new aspect of nature dawns on him i.e. the autumnal charm of nature. He suggests that true wisdom lies in appreciating both spring and autumn. Therefore, he resolves (*make up one's mind; determine; decide*) to go to the woodland and see the cherry laden with snow. He does not want to miss the charms of nature whether it is spring or autumn.

Where are the songs of spring? Ay, where are they?

Think not of them, thou hast thy music too. ('To Autumn' by John Keats)