

ENGLISH

CHAPTER 4 – LANDSCAPE OF THE SOUL

Understanding the text

1. (i) Contrast the Chinese view of art with the European view with examples.

Answer:

Chinese painting art is imaginative and spiritual in nature, whereas European paintings are based on actual views or real objects. The paintings of Wu Daozi and master painters from Europe demonstrate the disparity between the perspectives of two distinct arts.

(ii) Explain the concept of shanshui.

Answer:

It literally means “mountain water,” and it refers to a type of Chinese painting that incorporates natural landscapes, spiritual spaces, and conceptual spaces. It reflects two opposing poles that represent the Daoist view of the universe.

2. (i) What do you understand by the terms ‘outsider art’ and ‘art brut’ or ‘raw art’?

Answer:

Outsider art is art created by an artist who has no formal training but still has talent and an artistic point of view in life. The term ‘art brut’ or ‘raw art’ refers to art in its most basic form or state.

(ii) Who was the “untutored genius who created a paradise” and what is the nature of his contribution to art?

Answer:

Nek Chand was the ‘untutored genius’ who created ‘paradise.’ He was the 80-year-old designer of Chandigarh’s world-famous Rock Garden. It is an example

of outsider art in which raw materials and stones are combined to create an artistic work. Anything and everything can be used to create an artwork, and all that is required is a critical eye. One of his most well-known works is ‘Women by the Waterfall.’

Thinking about language

1. Find out the correlates of Yin and Yang in other cultures.

Answer:

Yang and yin are two complementary poles that can be correlated in various cultures and styles.

Nature and God are central to Indian culture. Nature is yin, and God is yang. To create the world and all of its worldly things and creatures, a combination of the two is required.

2. What is the language spoken in Flanders?

Answer:

The French language is spoken in Flanders.

Working with words

I. The following common words are used in more than one sense.

panel studio brush

essence material

Examine the following sets of sentences to find out what the words, ‘panel’ and ‘essence’ mean in different contexts.

1. (i) The masks from Bawa village in Mali look like long panels of decorated wood.

(ii) Judge H. Hobart Grooms told the jury panel he had heard the reports.

(iii) The panel is laying the groundwork for an international treaty.

(iv) The glass panels of the window were broken.

(v) Through the many round tables, workshops and panel discussions, a consensus was reached.

(vi) The sink in the hinged panel above the bunk drains into the head.

Answer:

(i) boards of decorated wood.

(ii) group of men selected to give a unanimous verdict on a legal matter.

(iii) group of experts.

(iv) window panes.

(v) group discussions.

(vi) a flat board fixed with a hinge.

2. (i) Their repetitive structure must have taught the people around the great composer the essence of music.

(ii) Part of the answer is in the proposition; but the essence is in the meaning.

(iii) The implications of these schools of thought are of practical essence for the teacher.

(iv) They had added vanilla essence to the pudding

Answer:

(i) the most important quality of something that makes it what it is.

(ii) the main part.

(iii) practical importance.

(iv) liquid taken from vanilla that contains its smell and taste in a very strong form.

The Voice of the Rain

Think it out

I. 1. There are two voices in the poem. Who do they belong to? Which lines indicate this?

Answer:

The poem contains two voices. The first is of the rain, and the second is of the poet himself.

“And who art thou? Said I to the soft-falling shower,” is the voice of the poet and “I am the Poem of Earth, said the voice of the rain” is the voice of rain.

2. What does the phrase “strange to tell” mean?

Answer:

The phrase refers to a peculiar phenomenon, as the raindrop responds to the poet’s questions.

3. There is a parallel drawn between rain and music. Which words indicate this? Explain the similarity between the two.

Answer:

The voice of the rain says, “I am the Poem of Earth,” implying a link between rain and poetry.

The poet draws parallels between the two by observing the rain’s life cycle. They both originate from a source, rise, and return to their origin after completing their task.

4. How is the cyclic movement of rain brought out in the poem? Compare it with what you have learnt in science.

Answer:

As the poem’s lines go, the water rises from the “land and the bottomless sea” to reach the sky. Water rises untouched from the sea in the form of water vapour, forms a cloud, and then descends back on earth to wash away the

dryness, returning to its source. This cyclical movement of rain parallels the phenomenon of precipitation we learned in science.

5. Why are the last two lines put within brackets?

Answer:

The last two lines contain the poet's comment or general observation, not the voice (something said) of the rain or the poet. As a result, they are enclosed in brackets because they do not constitute a conversation between the rain and the poet.

6. List the pairs of opposites found in the poem.

Answer:

- (a) Day, night
- (b) Reck'd, unreck'd
- (c) Rise, descend

II. Notice the following sentence patterns.

1. And who art thou? said I to the soft-falling shower.

Answer:

I enquired the soft-falling rain about its identity.

2. I am the Poem of Earth, said the voice of the rain.

Answer:

The voice of the rain introduced itself as the Poem of Earth.

3. Eternal I rise

Answer:

Upward movement of the rain (towards sky) is eternal.

4. For song... duly with love returns

Answer:

The poet says that, similar to the natural cycle of the rain, a song originates from the heart of the poet, travels to reach others and after fulfilling its purpose (whether acknowledged or not), it returns to the poet with all due love.

III. Look for some more poems on the rain and see how this one is different from them

Answer:

Do it yourself.