UDAAN

2025

Dust of Snow
&
Fire and Ice

English | Lecture - 02

By- Anurag Tyagi

Topics *to be covered*

Topic 1 Warm-Up Game

Topic 2 Poetry : Dust of Snow; Fire and Ice

Topic 3 NCERT Questions and Quiz

Recap *of previous lecture*

1. Warm-Up Game
2. Prose : A Triumph of Surgery
3. NCERT Questions

Game Time

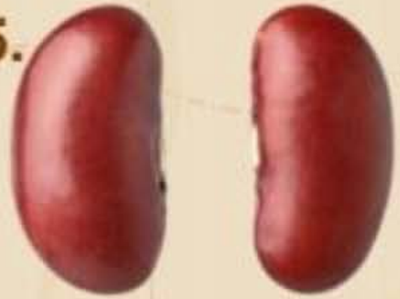
Instruction:
Identify the parts of the body that the given food items resemble!

1.

2.

3.

4.

5. 

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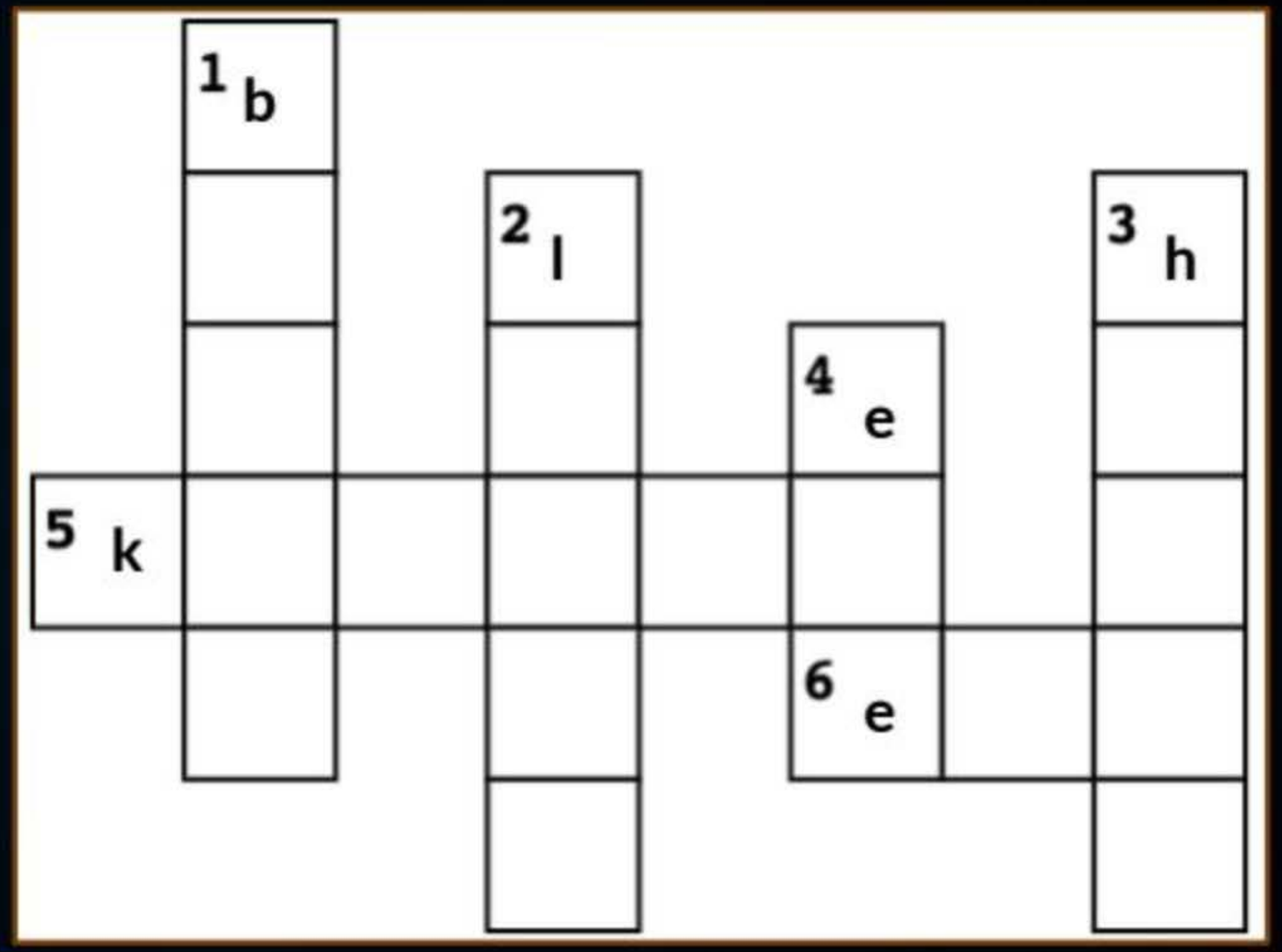

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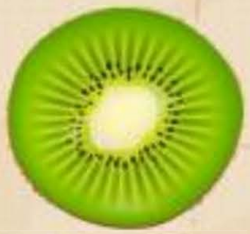
4. 

2.

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	r		[2]l				[3]h
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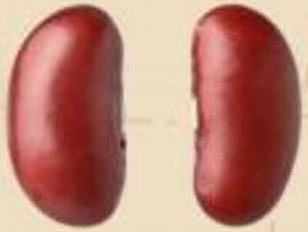
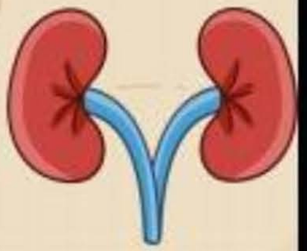
5.  

3.

6.

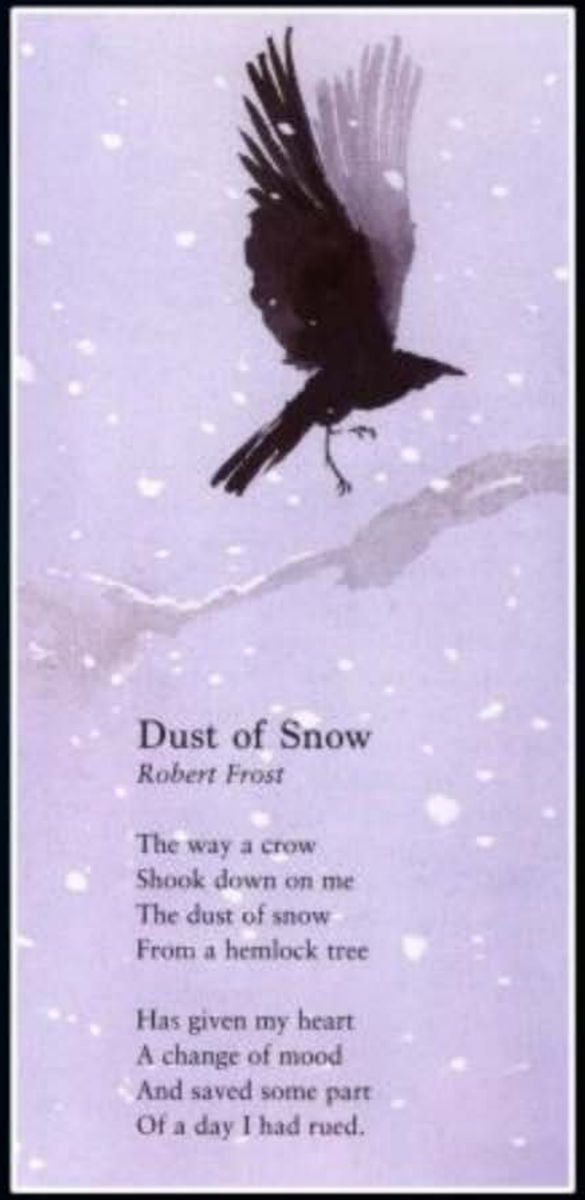
Topic : Poem - Dust of Snow

By- "Robert Frost"

- *'Dust of Snow' is a short poem that presents the details of a landscape and focuses on the transformative power of nature.*
- *It emphasizes that sometimes seemingly insignificant events can bring about a significant change in our lives.*

Topic : Introduction

- "Dust of Snow" is a short poem consisting of just two stanzas. However, the poem has got the beauty of a miniature painting.
- In the fewest possible words, the poet has given the details of a landscape.
- A snow-laden hemlock tree, with a crow flying out of it, scattering the soft snow all over the poet passing by under the tree, make a perfect, balanced and complete winter landscape.



The way a crow

Shake

Shook down on me

particles of snow

The dust of snow

From a hemlock tree

Ill omen

Has given my heart

A change of mood

And saved some part

Of a day I had rued.

held in regret; sad

Message

(1) Everything in nature has a positive effect on us.

Nothing is inauspicious.

(2) We should always stay optimistic and positive.

Rhyme Scheme

abab

QUESTION

What is the rhyme scheme of the poem?

(A) abaa

(B) aaab

(C) abab

(D) bba

The way a crow	a
Shook down on me	b
The dust of snow	a
From a hemlock tree	b
Has given my heart	a
A change of mood	b
And saved some part	a
Of a day I had rued.	b

QUESTION

Why does the poet call it 'dust of snow'?

A. Snow particles were too tiny

B. They came over him like dust

C. They felt like dust

D. They looked like dust

QUESTION

The poet says 'Of a day I had rued'. What is the meaning of 'rued'?

A. Ruined

B. Held in regret

C. Ruled

D. Conquered

QUESTION

Through the poem 'Dust of Snow', Robert Frost is trying to shatter all the beliefs that humans have about the things that they consider _____.

A. Ill-omens

B. Superstitions

C. Orthodox

D. All of these

QUESTION

In the poem Dust of Snow, which negative symbols have been used to create a positive effect?

A. Hemlock tree; crow

B. Crow; snow

C. Snow; hemlock tree

D. Crow; dust

QUESTION

Has given my heart
A change of mood

What is the poet's mood now?

(A) Appreciative of nature

(B) Thoughtful

(C) Happy

(D) Cool

Sounds (Letters)

Vowels

a, e, i, o, u

- a → apple
- e → ear
- i → ice
- o → orange
- u → umbrella
- yu → unicorn

It is a beautiful day.

ASSONANCE

Consonants

b, c, d, f, g, h - - z

eg. Early bird gets the worm.

CONSONANCE

eg. She sells seashells by the seashore.

ALLITERATION

Poetic Devices

The way a crow

Shook down on me

The dust of snow

From a hemlock tree

Has given my heart

A change of mood

And saved some part

Of a day I had rued.

1. Assonance
2. Alliteration
3. Symbolism
4. Imagery
5. Enjambment

The way a crow

Shook down on me

The dust of snow

From a hemlock tree

Has given my heart

A change of mood

And saved some part

Of a day I had rued.

1. Alliteration
2. Enjambment
3. Symbolism
4. Imagery
5. Assonance

QUESTION

Which poetic device is used in the following line - 'and saved some part'?

A. Simile

B. Metaphor

C. Hyperbole

D. Alliteration

QUESTION

The prominence of a vowel sound throughout a line is called assonance, a literary device.

Identify the line of the poem "Dust of Snow" which uses assonance.

A. Shook down on me

B. The dust of snow

C. A change of mood

D. Of a day I had rued

Tools of Comparison

Simile

Direct Comparison

as, like

John runs like a Cheetah.

Metaphor

Indirect Comparison

John is the Cheetah of our class.

Hyperbole

Topic : Summary

Dejected and depressed, in a very sullen and melancholic mood, the poet had spent a part of his day, feeling absolutely out of sorts and spirits when unexpectedly a seemingly small occurrence lifted the weight off his mind and made him experience a joyous mood.

The poet describes how when he was passing by under a snow-laden hemlock tree, a crow perched on it shook some flakes of snow which fell on him. This little incident brought about a big and positive change in his mood. The sudden contact with nature set in a strong sense of joy in the poet and made all his melancholy disappear.

NCERT QUESTIONS

#Q. What is a 'dust of snow'? What does the poet say it has changed his mood? How has the poet's mood changed?

#Q. How does Frost present nature in this poem? The following questions may help you to think of an answer.

(i) What are the birds that are usually named in poems? Do you think crow is often mentioned in poems? What images come to your mind when you think of a crow?

(ii) Again, what is 'a hemlock tree'? Why doesn't the poet write about more 'beautiful' tree such as a maple, or an oak, or a pine?

(iii) What do the 'crow' and 'hemlock' represent-joy or sorrow? What does the dust of snow that the crow shakes off a hemlock tree stand for?

QUESTION

#Q. What is a 'dust of snow'? What does the poet say it has changed his mood? How has the poet's mood changed?

Ans. The 'dust of snow' means the fine particles of snow. The sudden shower in the form of the dust of snow changed the poet's mood.

The poet's mood changed from the state of sadness to happiness. He felt refreshed and wanted to enjoy the rest of the day.

QUESTION

#Q. How does Frost present nature in this poem? The following questions may help you to think of an answer.

(i) What are the birds that are usually named in poems? Do you think crow is often mentioned in poems? What images come to your mind when you think of a crow?

(ii) Again, what is 'a hemlock tree'? Why doesn't the poet write about more 'beautiful' tree such as a maple, or an oak, or a pine?

(iii) What do the 'crow' and 'hemlock' represent-joy or sorrow? What does the dust of snow that the crow shakes off a hemlock tree stand for?

Ans. Frost is often called the poet of nature. Unlike Wordsworth, he does not glorify nature but takes on an objective view. He describes the positive and negative aspects of nature. In the poem 'Dust of Snow', Frost presents a positive view of nature. His depressed and sad mood is changed in a happy one when a simple event happened with him. A crow shook down the dust of snow on him and changed his mood.

(i) Generally, poets take the birds which are known for their beauty and good qualities, like peacock, swan, cuckoo, mynah, etc.

But, here Frost has taken a totally different approach as he chose a crow. Crow is not often used in poems. Crow is black in colour and has a very harsh voice. It is believed to be a symbol of bad omen.

Thinking of a crow brings very depressing and sorrowful pictures to our mind.

(ii) A hemlock tree is a poisonous plant with small white flowers.

The poet, Robert Frost, didn't choose to use an oak, maple or pine tree and instead, chose the hemlock tree so that he could present his depressed mood and feelings.

(iii) The crow and hemlock tree represent sorrow and depression felt by the poet in this materialistic world.

The dust of snow is the symbol of natural joy and energy. The dust of snow that the crow shakes off from a hemlock tree is a sign of nature's blessing. (It means that the poet is passing through the sad and depressing moments and is entering the time full of joy and optimism.)

QUESTION

H.W.

#Q. Have there been times when you felt depressed and hopeless? Have you experienced a similar moment that changed your mood that day?

Ans. Yes, there have been number of times when I felt depressed and hopeless. Sometimes such moments were a result of my own action and sometimes they were aroused by other people's behaviour and attitude.

Yes, I have experienced a similar moment that changed my mood. One day, I was very upset so I went out for a walk. I saw a small boy sitting in the park and enjoying with his friends. The sight and the joy that the boy was sharing with his friends changed my mood and I felt very happy for the rest of the day. I also joined him and enjoyed the company.

POEM - FIRE AND ICE

Topic : Poem - Fire and Ice

- "Fire and Ice' is a short poem that deals with two possibilities of destruction of the world- fire and ice.
- However, the poet has used both the elements literally and figuratively.

Some say the world will end in fire

Some say in ice.

From what I've tasted of desire

I hold with those who favour fire.

agree with

die/destroy

But if it had to perish twice,

I think I know enough of hate

To say that for destruction ice

Is also great

enough

And would suffice.

Fire	Ice
Fiery/Violent Emotions	Cold Emotions
Desire	Hatred
Anger	Insensitivity
Cruelty	Jealousy
Ruthlessness	Indifference

Message

1. We should all control our negative emotions.
2. We should all be kind and humane towards each other.

Topic : Rhyme Scheme

Some say the world will end in fire
Some say in ice.
From what I've tasted of desire
I hold with those who favour fire.

But if it had to perish twice,
I think I know enough of hate
To say that for destruction ice
Is also great
And would suffice.

QUESTION

What is the rhyme scheme of the poem?

ab aba

A. abaa ~~bobcb~~

B. aaab bcbeb

C. aaba behcb

D. abab bebeb

Some say the world will end in fire — a
Some say in ice. — b
From what I've tasted of desire — a
I hold with those who favour fire. — a

But if it had to perish twice, — a
I think I know enough of hate — b
To say that for destruction ice — a
Is also great — b
And would suffice. — a

QUESTION

What does the poet compare fire with?

A. hatred

B. desire

C. hot

D. both 1 and 3

QUESTION

Why does the poet hold with those who favour fire?

A. Because love among people is increasing fast

B. Because hatred among people is increasing fast

C. Because the lust for material things is increasing quickly

D. None of the above

QUESTION

Which option correctly replaces the underlined phrase in the give line from Fire and Ice?

I hold with those who favour fire.

(A) am as experienced as

(B) strongly disagree with

(C) have the same opinion as

(D) habitually avoid

Poetic Devices

Some say the world will end in fire

Some say in ice.

From what I've tasted of desire

I hold with those who favour fire.

But if it had to perish twice,

I think I know enough of hate

To say that for destruction ice

Is also great

And would suffice.

1. Alliteration
2. Assonance
3. Anaphora → Repetition at the beginning of consecutive lines
4. Enjambment
5. Imagery
6. Symbolism (Fire & Ice)

Some say the world will end in fire

Some say in ice.

From what I've tasted of desire

I hold with those who favour fire.

But if it had to perish twice,

I think I know enough of hate

To say that for destruction ice

Is also great

And would suffice.

1. Alliteration
2. Assonance
3. Anaphora
4. Enjambment
5. Symbolism
6. Imagery

Topic : Summary

The poem presents two contradictory views about how the world would see its end. The idea is based on the scientific theories that the world will come to its doom either because of the excessive, fiery heat or because of the freezing ice. Some scientists are of the view that the world would be scorched because of global warming while others hold an entirely contradictory view that it would be frozen to its end in an ice age in the future.

The poet subscribes to the first view that it would end in 'fire'. But he uses 'fire' and 'ice' symbolically, associating each with a different emotion.

'Fire' is used as a symbol of violent, fiery passions like anger, cruelty, brutality etc. The poet is of the opinion that human beings are so much overpowered by these destructive passions that they may cause the end of the world. These emotions, in their intensity, have the potential to consume the world.

Similarly, 'ice' has a symbolic significance in the poem and represents cold feelings like hatred, indifference, jealousy, apathy, self-centeredness, etc. The poet, who finds violent passions to be a potent threat to the existence of the world, is not blind to the rampant cold emotions. People have lost the warmth of human affection, kindness and sympathy.

The icy feelings of selfishness and self-centeredness have suppressed human values and have so strongly overpowered human beings that they are a potent danger to the world. They may spell the doom of the world because they are sufficiently destructive forces.

Thus, the poet does not rule out the probability of 'ice' being a potential deadly force which can annihilate the world completely. While 'fire' consumes the world quickly, 'ice' is like a slow poison to lead the world gradually to its end.

QUESTION

Which of the following poetic devices is used in the poem 'Fire and Ice'?

A. Alliteration

B. Assonance

C. Symbolism

D. All of these

QUESTION

Identify the poetic device used in the line 'Some say the world will end in fire'.

A. Metaphor

B. Personification

C. Alliteration

D. Oxymoron

QUESTION

#Q. There are many ideas about how the world will 'end'. Do you think the world will end some day? Have you ever thought what would happen if the Sun gets so hot that it 'bursts' or grows colder and colder?

#Q. For Frost, what do 'fire' and 'ice' stand for? Here are some ideas

greed F	avarice F	cruelty F/I	lust F
conflict F	fury F	intolerance I	rigidity I
insensitivity I	coldness I	indifference I	hatred

#Q. What is the rhyme scheme of the poem? How does it help in bringing out the contrasting ideas in the poem?

QUESTION

#Q. There are many ideas about how the world will 'end'. Do you think the world will end some day? Have you ever thought what would happen if the Sun gets so hot that it 'bursts' or grows colder and colder?

Ans. There are definitely many ideas about how the world will 'end'. I do believe that the world will end some day as anything that has a beginning is sure to have an end. This stands true for the world also. If the Sun got so hot that it burst, the whole of the Earth would be destroyed immediately. No part of the Earth would be able to bear the heat of that intensity. But even if the sun grew cold, everything will come to an end as without sunlight, life will end. Too cold would effect the life of all creatures on this planet; thus, bringing an end to it.

QUESTION

#Q. For Frost, what do 'fire' and 'ice' stand for? Here are some ideas

greed	avarice	cruelty	lust
conflict	fury	intolerance	rigidity
insensitivity	coldness	indifference	hatred

Ans. 'Fire' stands for cruelty, greed, avarice, lust, conflict and fury.

'Ice' stands for intolerance, rigidity, insensitivity, coldness, indifference and hatred.

QUESTION

#Q. What is the rhyme scheme of the poem? How does it help in bringing out the contrasting ideas in the poem?

Ans. The rhyme scheme of the poem is abaabcbcb. This rhyme scheme helps in bringing out the contrasting ideas of 'fire' and 'ice' presented in the poem.

The poet mentions that both fire and ice can bring this world to an end. He talks about how fire represents desire and can be the reason for destruction.

Frost also mentions ice in between to symbolise that the coldness and indifference towards one another will be enough to end the world.

Homework

Q. Have there been times when you felt depressed and hopeless? Have you experienced a similar moment that changed your mood that day?

THANK YOU