

ENGLISH
APPRECIATION 2.1- SONG OF
THE OPEN ROAD

1) The Title:

The title clearly depicts poet's happy mood to travel on the open road of life. The poet wishes to move ahead on the road of life with his own will and goodness. The song of the open road also indicates Freedom.

2) Theme:

It's about poet's journey of life marked by freedom irrespective of troubles. The road signifies 'mobility.' One can take the road as a point to start over towards something new. It also depicts the importance of freedom. The poet neglects the burdens of life and ready to enjoy the life freely.

3) Poetic Style:

It is composed in free-verse. Apart from parentheses, it does not follow any stylistic features which restrain its simplicity and composure. The lines are unrhymed and of varying lengths. This poem is an Ode to one's self. Whitman separates his poem into four separate stanzas. With the exception of the first stanza, which contains only three lines, the other stanzas contain four lines of verse.

4) Special features

The poem is a free verse and in the form of a monologue. It has an optimistic note. It is an inspirational poem written in the form of narration. The first stanza contains only three lines while the other stanzas contain four lines of verse.

5) Message/Values/Morals

The poet does not aim to teach any moral lesson. Instead, he gives a clear message to the readers to enjoy the life to its fullest. We should learn to value every aspect of our life and also have freedom to choose our road of life.

2.2- INDIAN WEAVERS

1) Title of the poem:

The title deals with the Indian weavers. They are the craftsman weaving clothes for various occasions. In the poem the readers get the information of the work of weavers and its metaphorical relation with human life.

2) About poet / poem:

Sarojini Naidu was a political activist, feminist and the first woman to hold the office of the Governor in Independent India. She was an important figure in India's Struggle for Independence. Sarojini Naidu's work as a poet earned her the title of Nightingale of India. "Indian Weavers" is a short poem where the poet talks about three types of garment that the weavers weave at three particular times of a day. Each stanza of the poem represents the three important events of human life: birth (childhood), adulthood (young) and death (old).

3) Theme of the poem:

Sarojini Naidu's poem 'Indian Weavers' highlights the craft and skill of the Indian weavers. The poem tells about the three important stages in a human's life, namely - birth, marriage and death. The poetess relates these three stages to different colours and different times of the day. The colours mentioned in the stanzas are very significant as they indicate the moods related to the events.

4) Poetic device:

The poem beautifully presents imagery and word picture of Indian weavers. The major figures of speech used here are Simile, Inversion, Metaphor, and Alliteration. There are three stanzas having four lines. The lines have rhyming words and the rhyme scheme is - aabb.

5) Message of the poem:

The poem presents three particular times of the day to describe three stages of our life. Metaphorically each time and the dress weaved in that time symbolises a particular stage of life. These stages of life are inevitable and everyone has to face it.

2.3- THE INCHCAPE ROCK

1) Title of the poem:

The poem 'The Inchcape Rock' has taken as its title the name of the legendary rock which is the centre of all the events. The rock had caused a lot of shipwrecks previously. Then the good Abbott tied a bell to that to warn the passing ships of the danger of the rock. Later the villainous Ralph cut the bell from the rock to help his own cause of looting the ships in danger of the rock. And in the end, the villain gets punished when his own ship hits the Inchcape rock and he dies. So we see, the entire story revolves around the Inchcape rock. So the title of the poem is just and apt.

2) About poet / poem:

The poem shows the beautiful atmosphere of the sea. It also deals with the threat in the form of Inchcape rock that can destroy the ships. The poem has thus sea background.

3) Theme of the poem :

The poem shows us how jealousy is an incurable defect of human character. People get jealous at others' success and achievements and pay the price themselves. It does not make them any better-positioned in achieving something similar, but harm them in many ways.

4) Poetic device:

The rhyme scheme used in the poem is 'aa b b'. The figures of speech used here include - alliteration, inversion, apostrophe and personification. All these increase the beauty of the poem.

5) Message of the poem:

It is a didactic poem. A didactic poem always delivers a moral teaching or lesson for the mankind. This poem also has one, though not directly but through a legendary tale. By its form, it is a ballad. Using the natural objects to suggest the tone or mood is a popular technique in literature, especially in poetry. Here the poet has employed the fixed air, calm sea, steady ship and the quiet waves to depict the calmness in the first two stanzas of the poem. The poem also shows the jealousy of persons which cause the destruction of his life.

2.4- HAVE YOU EARNED YOUR TOMORROW

1) Title of the poem:

The title "Have you earned your tomorrow" is appropriate as per the theme of the poem. It is a question asked to the readers what they are doing to secure the surety of their future. Title is catchy. It arouses curiosity.

2) About poet / poem:

The tone of the people is that of appeal. The poet asks forceful questions and convinces the readers to accept her thinking. The questions are used to connect the readers with the message that the poet wants to give.

3) Theme of the poem :

The poem is marked by questions directed at the reader. Through it the poet appeals the readers to behave kindly with others and bring happiness on the face of the persons who come near them. It will give them assured future. They will be able to live in the coming future.

4) Poetic device:

The poem has four stanzas with four lines in each of them. The lines follow the pattern of aabbccaaddeeffaa. The repetition of the -ay" sound that appears in the first second and fourth stanzas is noteworthy. It has been used repetitively in order to unify the text. The questions are used to accept the advice that the poet wants to convey. Each stanza has rhyming words to create musical effect.

5) Message of the poem:

To get assured future work properly today. God will give the bright future only to those who are ready to bring happiness in the life of others.

2.5- FATHER RETURNING HOME

1) Title of the poem:

The title 'Father returning home' belongs to the central character of the poem. The poem deals with the daily routine of the father. The activities of the father and his loneliness are depicted in the poem. The family members are indifferent to the father. So the poet shows the utter alienation of the father and describes the pain and misery lurking in the old man's soul as he travels in the local train. The title is suitable as per the theme of the poem.

2) About poet / poem:

'Father Returning Home' by Dilip Chitre is probably the most famous poem by this Indian poet. It is an autobiographical poem. Here the poet shows the loneliness and world-weariness of an old man in the modern society by depicting a picture of his own father returning home from work. The poem is a true account of the poet's father Purushottam Chitre's life in 1957 when they moved from Baroda to Mumbai. The poem is expressive of the poet's feelings for his father at a later stage. He realized how neglected and uncared-for his father was, even after being the only bread-earner for the family. **3)**

Theme of the poem:

The poem 'Father Returning Home' has autobiographical significance. But it has gone beyond it. It is now an account of any old man who does the hard work for his family but leads a monotonous life where no one is there to take care of him, to talk with him or to understand his feelings. Alienation, indifference, old age in a modern society, isolation, the generation gap and the future of the individual in the city are the central things that are shown in this poem.

4) Poetic device:

'Father Returning Home' is a free verse poem. There is no set rhyme scheme and no dominant metre. There are twenty four lines. The use of the present participle (Standing unseeing, getting off, eating etc.) is remarkable. The tone of the poem shows worthlessness and the continuation of a sentence alienation from outside world. The use of words like unseeing, soggy, falling apart, dime dropped, stale, estrangement, sullen etc. shows it. There without a pause beyond the end of a line. It is called 'Enjambment'. The simile Like a word dropped from a long sentence in the ninth line is powerful and worth exploring. The other figures of speech like alliteration, personification and repetition increases the beauty of the poem **5)**

Message of the poem:

Father Returning Home is a dramatic monologue, the voice of a son detailing the scenes from the life of his father. The poem focuses on the theme of alienation or estrangement experienced by the aged in their twilight years. In the poem Father Returning Home the poet talks about his father's loneliness and alienation from the man-made world.

2.6- MONEY

1) Title of the poem:

The title 'Money gives us the clue that the poem may show the importance of money and its effect in the life of a person. Money is the important thing in our life. We get material pleasures if we have money. If we don't have the money, we have to face hard life.

2) About poet / poem:

William H. Davies was a Welsh poet and writer. He spent a significant part of his life as a tramp or hobo in the United Kingdom and the United States. He became a peddler and street singer in England. The poem tells us about the rich man who wants to be a poor man to find the real happiness. It is when we do not have money or have lost our money; we realize how important the money is. At the end, the poet says that now he doesn't have money, he has true friends though they may be few.

3) Theme of the poem :

When we do not have money or have lost our money, we realize how important the money is. Poverty decreases the number of friends but it gives us real friends Poverty shows the selfish friends who leave us due to our poverty.

4) Poetic device:

The poem has the rhyme scheme - a ba b. The major figures of speech used in the poem include- Inversion, simile, repetition, onomatopoeia, antithesis etc. The odd lines have rhyming words

5) Message of the poem:

The message of the poem is though money is important in our life; it doesn't give the real friends. To know the harsh reality one has to experience the poverty. Money gives us many friends but they decrease if we don't have the money. Poor persons have to face hard life.

2.7- SHE WALKS IN BEAUTY

1) Title of the poem:

The title 'She walks in beauty' is depicting the theme of the poem. Actually the poet doesn't say she walks beautifully. He says she walks in beauty. Here the poet indicates not only outer beauty but also inner too. This is a lyrical, rhyming poem, which describes a woman's beauty, and which means that only physical appearance is not sufficient, it requires inner qualities also.

2) About poet / poem:

George Gordon Byron, known simply as Lord Byron was a famous English Romantic poet and also a satirist. 'She Walks in Beauty' is a short lyrical poem celebrating female beauty. The poet describes an unnamed woman who is exceptionally striking. The poet describes not only her external appearance but also her inner goodness which makes her so captivatingly attractive.

3) Theme of the poem :

The poet describes the divine beauty of the woman. Beauty is a kind of harmony that is as perfect as it is rare.. The poem explores the idea that physical appearance depends upon inner goodness. The woman's outer appearance is presented as a sign of her inner serenity, peacefulness and innocence. **4) Poetic device:**

The poem consists of three stanzas having eighteen lines. The poet uses regular stanza pattern and it is sestet as each stanza consists of six lines. Word imagery is used in the poem. The rhyme scheme is 'a baba b'. In alternative lines there are rhyming words. Apart from the slight slant rhyme of "brow," "glow," and "below," in the third stanza, these are all strong, perfect rhymes. The major figures of speech used in the poem are simile, metaphor, alliteration, personification and antithesis.

5) Message of the poem:

The poem is rich as it has very good literary features. It shows the importance of physical beauty as well as the inner divine qualities. It gives a word picture of beautiful woman. The poem makes the readers to go beyond outer appearance to appreciate the divine inner beauty of the woman. I like this aspect of the poem very much.

2.8- SMALL TOWNS AND RIVERS

1) Title of the poem:

The title 'Small Towns and Rivers' has deep meaning. River is personified and described as having a soul. The small towns get great help from the river water. The title shows the importance of river in the life of people.

2) About poet / poem:

Mamang Dai is a novelist, journalist and a modern Indian poet of the North East region. She was born in the Adi tribal community of Arunachal Pradesh. She experienced a close vicinity of Nature. The poem, 'Small Towns and Rivers' describes a landscape and Nature where river is a dominant phenomenon. The poet makes us aware of the lively nature around her hometown and the eternity of the natural elements. The poet has expressed anxiety at the developments in the small towns.

3) Theme of the poem :

The poem is based on the belief of the tribal people from the North East, which the souls of the beloved ones always continue to dwell in the natural elements around. So she remembers death when she sees the towns. The towns, she implies, have prospered when Nature has been destroyed.

4) Poetic device:

The poem has no specific metrical form and is largely written in free verse. But, there are some internal rhymes like: summer/ winter, flying/ howling. There has been an extensive use of repetitions and alliterations. An example of repetition is the line: "Life and death, life and death", the line "The river has a soul" has been used as a sort of refrain for the stanzas 3

and 4. All these grant a musical effect to the poem. The poem also contains some beautiful imagery related to the world of nature.

5) Message of the poem:

The poem celebrates the rich culture and rituals of the North-East region. However, the speaker also expresses a feeling of lament because these perennial rituals and traditions are threatened by the so called modernization. The river has given importance here and it is respected by the people in poet's area. The poet shows the pathetic condition of river and tries to make aware the readers about it.

