

October, 2010

Assignment
Subject: English
Class: XII
A Thing of Beauty

(A.1) Read the following extract and answer the following questions:

Therefore, on every morrow, are we wreathing
A flowery band to bind us to the earth,
Spite of despondence, of the inhuman dearth
Of noble natures, of the gloomy days,
Of all the unhealthy and o'er-darkened ways
Made for our searching: yes, in spite of all

Questions:

1. What do we do everyday?
2. Which evil things do we possess and suffer from?
3. Explain: 'In spite of all'
4. Find words from the passage which mean,
a. Malice b. Disappointment

(A.2) Read the following extract and answer the following questions:

Some shape of beauty moves away the pall
From our dark spirits. Such the sun, the moon,
Trees old, and young, sprouting a shady boon
For simple sheep; and such are daffodils
With the green world they live in; and clear rills
That for themselves a cooling covert make
'Gainst the hot season; the mid forest brake,
Rich with a sprinkling of fair musk-rose blooms;

Questions:

1. Explain: 'dark spirits'.
2. What is a thing of beauty according to the poet?
3. What does the 'clear rills' refer to? What do they do?
4. What is the significance of 'the mid forest brake'?

(B) Answer the following questions in about 30-40 words:

1. What are the poet's views on the things of beauty?
2. What is it that makes humans forge deeper bonds with the earth and with life?
3. What makes humans unhappy and how do they find release from this state?
4. How does the poet define the bounteous gifts of nature?
5. What is the 'endless fountain' a reference to? What are its effects?
6. What is the theme of the poem, 'A Thing of Beauty'?

A Roadside Stand

(A.1) Read the following extract and answer the following questions:

The polished traffic passed with a mind ahead,
Or if ever aside a moment, then out of sorts
At having the landscape marred with the artless paint
Of signs that with N turned wrong and S turned wrong
Offered for sale wild berries in wooden quarts,
Or crook-necked golden squash with silver warts,

Questions:

1. What does the poet say about the passing traffic?
2. Why do the people who stop get upset?
3. Explain: 'landscape marred'
4. Find words from the stanza which mean:
5. (a) refined (b) spoiled (c)

(A.2) Read the following extract and answer the following questions:

No, in country money, the country scale of gain,
The requisite lift of spirit has never been found,
Or so the voice of the country seems to complain,
I can't help owning the great relief it would be
To put these people at one stroke out of their pain

Questions:

1. What is 'the requisite lift of spirit'?
2. Why has it not been found?
3. How will the poet feel relief?
4. What is the complaint of the villagers?

(B) Answer the following questions in about 30-40 words:

1. What did the roadside stand plead too pathetically?
2. What do you understand by 'the polished traffic' and what do they do?
3. "The hurt to the scenery wouldn't be my complaint" says Robert Frost. What was his real complaint?
4. Who are 'the greedy good-doers and beneficent beasts of prey'? Explain.
5. "Of all the thousand selfish cars that pass", only some stop there but not for buying something. Why do they stop there?
6. What will be a great relief to the poet?
