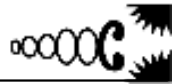




APPRECIATING SHORT STORIES/POEMS



Appreciating short story/poem : এই item টি HSC Syllabus-এ নতুন সংযোজন। তাই স্বভাবতই শিক্ষার্থীদের অনেকেই এই item টি চিন্তিত। নিম্নে উল্লেখিত কয়েকটি বিষয় ভালোভাবে আয়ত্ত করতে পারলে এবং শ্রুতিগতভাবে তা অনুধাবন করতে পারলে তাদের আর এ বিষয়ে কোনো ভীতি থাকবে না এবং সঠিকভাবে উত্তর করতে পারবে। উল্লেখ্য, প্রশ্নে Short story বা poem থাকবে।

১. প্রথমেই মনে রাখতে হবে এটা Summary নয়। তাই সংক্ষেপে গল্পটি/কবিতাটি লিখলে হবে না।

২. গল্প/কবিতাটি বারবার পড়তে হবে।

৩. কবিতাটি/গল্পটি কী সম্বন্ধে (Subject matter) লেখা হয়েছে তা বোঝার চেষ্টা করতে হবে।

৪. লেখক কী উদ্দেশ্যে (Theme) কবিতাটি/গল্পটি লিখেছে তা বোঝার চেষ্টা করতে হবে।

৫. সর্বশেষ জীবন সম্বন্ধে লেখকের আবেগ, অনুভূতি ও বিশ্বাস বোঝার চেষ্টা করতে হবে।

এরপর তোমরা নিজের ভাষায় ৫০ শব্দের মধ্যে Subject matter ও theme লিখবে। অর্থাৎ লেখক “কী উদ্দেশ্যে” গল্প/কবিতাটি লিখেছেন এবং জীবন সম্বন্ধে লেখকের “কী বিশ্বাস” তা খুব সংক্ষেপে লিখতে হবে।

While appreciating short story or poem, the students will find out the theme only. The size of the answer does not matter. The theme in a text is the underlying message. Hence the students will try to find out the author's critical belief about life which transcends cultural barriers. **NCTB**

এবার নিচের গল্পটি পড় এবং লক্ষ কর কীভাবে গল্পটির Appreciation করা হয়েছে।

□ Write down the theme of the following story (Not more than 50 words).

Once upon a time, there was a man who was very helpful, kindhearted, and generous. He was a man who will help someone without asking anything to pay him back. He will help someone because he wants to and he loves to. One day while walking into a dusty road, this man saw a purse, so he picked it up and noticed that the purse was empty. Suddenly a woman with a policeman shows up and gets him arrested. The woman kept on asking where did he hide her money but the man replied, “It was empty when I found it’ Mam.” The woman yelled at him, “Please give it back, It’s for my son’s school fees.” The man noticed that the woman really felt sad, so he handed all his money. The man said, “Take these, sorry for the inconvenience.” The woman left and policeman held the man for further questioning. The woman was very happy but when she counted her money later on, it was doubled, she was shocked. One day while the woman was going to pay her son’s school fees towards the school, she noticed that some skinny man was walking behind her. She thought that he may rob her, so she approached a policeman standing nearby. He was the same policeman, who she took along to inquire about her purse. The woman told him about the man following her, but suddenly they saw that man collapsing. They ran at him, and saw that he was the same man whom they arrested few days back for stealing a purse. He looked very weak and woman was confused. The policeman said to the woman, “He didn’t return your money, he gave you his money that day. He wasn’t the thief but hearing about your son’s school fees, he felt sad and gave you his money.” Later, they helped man stand up, and man told the woman, “Please go ahead and pay your son’s school fees, I saw you and followed you to be sure that no one steals your son’s school fees.” The woman was speechless.

Answer: Life gives us strange experiences, sometimes it shocks us and sometimes it may surprise you. We end up making wrong judgments or mistakes in our anger, desperation and frustration. However, when you get a second chance, correct your mistakes and return the favor. Be kind and generous. Learn to appreciate what you are given.

লক্ষ কর, উত্তরে গল্পটির কোনো অংশ ছুবছু তুলে দেওয়া হয়নি বা গল্পটি সংক্ষেপেও লেখা হয়নি। এখানে লেখক কী বোঝাতে চেয়েছেন শুধু তাই খুব সংক্ষেপে লেখা হয়েছে। এবার নিচের একটি কবিতাংশটি পড় এবং লক্ষ কর কীভাবে উত্তর লেখা হয়েছে।

□ Write down the theme of the following poem (Not more than 50 words).

Alone, alone, all, all alone,
Alone on a wide sea!
And never a saint took pity on
My soul in agony.
The many men, so beautiful!
And they all dead did lie;
And a thousand thousand slimy things
Lived on; and so did I.

Answer : Here the poet depicts that wrongdoers can never go unpunished. If the mundane law fails to punish wrongdoers, nature never relieves them. Even neither God nor any saint relieves them of their punishment until they realize their misdeeds. The poet also expresses that not death but loneliness is the

ultimate punishment for any individual.

Appreciating Short Poems (Textual)

01 Write down the theme of the following poem (Not more than 50 words).

I sit on one of the dives
On Fifty-second Street
Uncertain and afraid
As the clever hopes expire.
Of a low dishonest decade:
Waves of anger and fear
Circulate over the bright
And darkened lands of the earth,
Obsessing our private lives;
The unmentionable odour of death
Offends the September night.

September 1, 1939

by W.H. Auden

Biography: W.H. Auden, also known as Wystan Hugh Auden, was a poet, author and playwright born in York, England, on February 21, 1907. Auden was a leading literary influencer in the 20th century. He won the Pulitzer Prize in 1948. Auden died in Vienna, Austria, on September 29, 1973.

Key words: dive- মদ বিক্রি হয় বা জুয়া খেলা হয় এমন জায়গা/বার; afraid- ভীত; expire- অবসান হওয়া; circulate- চক্রাকারে ঘোরা; obsessing- আচ্ছন্ন; unmentionable- উল্লেখযোগ্য নয় এমন; odour- দুর্গন্ধ।

Answer : War is the main theme of the poem. During the war, there is an environment of uncertainty and fear. Because of the war, all the good hopes are gone. People live in despair. Waves of anger prevail all over. War brings about destruction and death of innocent people.

02 Write down the theme of the following poem (Not more than 50 words).

Amidst killer speeds I stand
Facing the traffic, stretching my hand.
I am seen on kid's books and as cartoons everywhere
Educating people and asking them to beware
Of the erratic traffic and the signboards
Seen on almost all the roads.
So that you're safe I see each one of you
But my sweat, my plight on the road sees who?
Be it sunny or rainy,
For your safety I must be
Vigil and agile, on the middle
Standing erect, as fit as a fiddle.

The Traffic Police

Key words: killer speeds- খুনী গতি; stretching - প্ৰসারিত করে; beware- সতর্ক হওয়া; erratic- দ্রুত গতিসম্পন্ন; plight- দুর্দশা; vigil- ক্রান্ত; agile- চটপটে; erect- খাড়া

Answer : The work of a traffic police is praiseworthy. He works for the safety of the common people. Even, he has to work amidst killer speeds. Though it is sunny and rainy, he is always vigil. But we do not honour him as he deserves.

03 Write down the theme of the following poem (Not more than 50 words).

[BB '17]

Blow, blow, thou winter wind,
Thou art not so unkind
As man's ingratitude;
Thy tooth is not so keen,
Because thou art not seen,
Although thy breath be rude.
Heigh-ho! sing heigh-ho! unto the green holly:
Most friendship is feigning, most loving mere folly:
Then heigh-ho, the holly!
This life is most jolly.

As You Like It

by W. Shakespeare

Biography: William Shakespeare (26 April 1564 (baptised) - 23 April 1616) was an English poet, playwright, and actor, widely regarded as the greatest writer in the English language and the world's pre-eminent dramatist. He is often called England's national poet, and the "Bard of Avon". He has written 38 plays and 154 sonnets.

Key words: blow- প্রবাহিত হওয়া; thou- তোমার; ingratitude- অকৃতজ্ঞতা; rude- রুঢ়; holly- তীক্ষ্ণাগ্র পত্রবিশিষ্ট চিরহরিৎ গুল্মবিশেষ; feigning- ভান; folly- বোকামি।

Answer : This is a beautiful poem that tells about friendship. Here the poet thinks that human friendship is feigning and hypocritical. It has no depth or significance. He glorifies winter wind. He thinks that winter wind is not as unkind as man's ingratitude.

04 Write down the theme of the following poem (Not more than 50 words).

[CB '17]

I love to rise in a summer morn,
When the birds sing on every tree;
The distant huntsman winds his horn,
And the skylark sings with me:
O what sweet company!
But to go to school in a summer morn,-

Biography: William Blake (1757–1827) was an English poet, painter, and printmaker. Largely unrecognised during his lifetime, Blake is now considered a seminal figure in the history of the poetry and visual arts of the Romantic Age. 'Songs of Innocence and of Experience', 'The Marriage of Heaven and Hell', 'The Four Zoas, Jerusalem', 'Milton', etc are some of his notable works.

Key words: huntsman- শিকারী; skylark- এক জাতের পাখি; company- সঙ্গ; dismay- হতাশা।

O it drives all joy away!
Under a cruel eye outworn,
The little ones spend the day
In sighing and dismay.

The Schoolboy
by William Blake

Answer : The main idea of the poem is about the innocence and tenderness of childhood. A child naturally loves a summer morning, birds' chirping, huntsmen's horns and skylarks' songs. Going to school in the morning, a child cannot enjoy these natural bounties. So, schools should be children friendly.

05 Write down the theme of the following poem (Not more than 50 words).

Ah then at times I drooping sit,
And spend many an anxious hour;
Nor in my book can I take delight,
Nor sit in learning's bower,
Worn through with the dreary shower.

How can the bird that is born for joy
Sit in a cage and sing?
How can a child, when fears annoy,
But droop his tender wing,
And forget his youthful spring!

The Schoolboy
by William Blake

Answer : The main idea of the poem is about the innocence and tenderness of childhood. Children generally want to live in youthful joy. But they face drudgery and annoyance at school. If annoyance and fear overcome them, they cannot grow properly; they can lose interest in learning.

06 Write down the theme of the following poem (Not more than 50 words).

[DB '17]

O father and mother if buds are nipped,
And blossoms blown away;
And if the tender plants are stripped
Of their joy in the springing day,
By sorrow and care's dismay, -
How shall the summer arise in joy,
Or the summer fruits appear?
Or how shall we gather what griefs destroy,
Or bless the mellowing year,
When the blasts of winter appear?

The Schoolboy
by William Blake

Answer : The main idea of the poem is about the innocence and tenderness of childhood. The poet addresses the parents to be sympathetic to their children. If children are sent to a school of cruel environment, they will lose all their innocence and lead a joyless life.

07 Write down the theme of the following poem (Not more than 50 words).

Because I have seen Bengal's face I will seek no more;
The world has not anything more beautiful to show me.
Waking up in darkness, gazing at the fig-tree, I behold
Dawn's swallows roosting under huge umbrella-like leaves. I look around me
And discover a leafy dome-Jam, Kanthal, Bat, Hijol and Aswatha trees-
All in a hush, shadowing clumps of cactus and zedoary bushes.
When long, long ago, Chand came in his honeycombed boat
To a blue Hijal, Bat and Tamal shade near the Champa, he too sighted
Bengal's incomparable beauty. One day, alas. In the Ganguri,
On a raft, as the waning moon sank on the river's sandbanks,
Behula too saw countless aswaths bats besides golden rice fields
And heard the thrush's soft song. One day, arriving in Amara,
Where gods held court, when she danced like a desolate wagtail,
Bengal's rivers, fields, flowers, wailed like strings of bells on her feet.

I have Seen Bengal's Face
Translation of Jibanananda Das's
"Banglar Mukh Ami DekhiyaChhi" by Fakrul Alam

Biography: Jibanananda Das (17 February 1899–22 October 1954) was a Bengali poet, writer, novelist and essayist. He is considered as Bengal's "greatest modern poet" and its "best loved poet" too. His two most famous and popular poems are: *Bonolota Sen* and *Banglar Mukh Ami Dekhiyachhi*. Das died on 22 October 1954, eight days after he was hit by a tramcar. The witnesses said that though the tramcar whistled, he did not stop and got struck. Some deem the accident as an attempt at suicide.

Biography: see appreciation no. 4

Key words: drooping- নিস্তেজ হয়ে মাথা নিচু করে থাকা; bower- গাছ কুটির (এখানে স্কুল বোঝানো হয়েছে); dreary- বিষণ্ণ বা নিরানন্দ; annoy- বিরক্ত বা জ্বালাতন করা; forget- ভুলে যাওয়া।

Biography: see appreciation no. 4

Key words: bud- মুকুল, অঙ্কুর; nip- নষ্ট করা; blown away- বাতাসে উড়িয়ে নিয়ে যাওয়া; strip- তুলে ফেলা; mellowing year- পরিণত বছর।

Key words: seek- খোঁজা; clump- গুচ্ছ বা ঝাড়; honeycombed- মধুকর; incomparable- অতুলনীয়; waning moon- বিবর্ণ চাঁদ; desolate- জনমানবশূন্য; wagtail- খগুন।

Answer : Everyone loves his own country. The poet reflects the same thing in this poem. Having been born in this country, the poet wishes to see no more country of the world. He expresses both his pride and sorrow concerning this country.

08 Write down the theme of the following poem (Not more than 50 words).

[RB '17]

I will arise and go now, and go to Innisfree,
And a small cabin build there, of clay and wattles made;
Nine bean rows will I have there, a hive for the honey bee
And live alone in the bee loud glade.

And I shall have some peace there, for peace comes dropping slow
Dropping from the veils of the morning to where the cricket sings;
There midnight's all a glimmer, and noon a purple glow,
And evening full of the linnet's wings.

The Lake Isle of Innisfree
by W.B. Yeats

Biography: William Butler Yeats (1865 –1939) was an Irish poet and one of the foremost figures of 20th-century literature. A pillar of both the Irish and British literary establishments, he helped to found the Abbey Theatre, and in his later years served as an Irish Senator for two terms, and was a driving force behind the Irish Literary Revival along with Lady Gregory, Edward Martyn and others. His famous poems are 'The Second Coming,' 'Lake Isle of Innisfree,' 'Easter, 1916,' 'Sailing to Byzantium,' 'A Prayer to My Daughter' etc.

Key words: arise - জেগে উঠা; clay- কাদা; wattle - বাতার বেড়া; cricket - ঝি ঝি পোকা; veil- পর্দা।

Answer : The theme of the poem is about the poet's desire to live in close contact with nature. In the cities, people lose all human compassions and conscience. So the poet dreams to go to the lake island Innisfree, a village, where he will have a peaceful life.

09 Write down the theme of the following poem (Not more than 50 words).

All people dream, but not equally.
Those who dream by night in the dusty recesses of their mind,
Wake in the morning to find that it was vanity.
But the dreamers of the day are dangerous people,
For they dream their dreams with open eyes,
And make them come true.

Dreams
by D.H. Lawrence

Biography : Born in England in 1885, D.H. Lawrence is regarded as one of the most influential writers of the 20th century. He published many novels and poetry volumes during his lifetime, including *Sons and Lovers* and *Women in Love*, but is best known for his infamous *Lady Chatterley's Lover*. His collected works represent, among other things, an extended reflection upon the dehumanising effects of modernity and industrialisation. He died in France in 1930.

Key words: recess- গর্ভ, অবকাশ; vanity- অহমিকা; dreamer- স্বপ্নদর্শী; wake- জেগে উঠা।

Answer : Dreaming by night is not harmful for others, because people who dream while sleeping, just forget everything in the morning. But those who dream by day can cause harm to others. They can do anything to materialize their dreams.

10 Write down the theme of the following poem (Not more than 50 words).

[JB '17]

Hold fast to dreams
For if dreams die
Life is a broken-winged bird
That cannot fly.
Hold fast to dreams
For when dreams go
Life is a barren field
Frozen with snow.

Biography: Langston Hughes was an American poet, social activist, novelist, playwright, and columnist from Joplin, Missouri. He was born in February 1, 1902. He published his first poem in 1921. His poetry was later promoted by Vachel Lindsay, and Hughes published his first book in 1926. He went on to write countless works of poetry, prose and plays, as well as a popular column for the Chicago Defender. He died on May 22, 1967.

Key words: hold- আঁকড়ে ধরে থাকা; barren- অনুর্বর; frozen- জমাট।

Dreams
by Langston Hughes

Answer : The importance of dream in our life is the main theme of the poem. Without dreams, our life will

be dull and hopeless. So we have to cherish dream to be successful in life. If we fail once, we should dream afresh. Dreams will one day bring us success.

11 Write down the theme of the following poem (Not more than 50 words).

Half a league, half a league,
Half a league onward,
All in the valley of Death,
Rode the six hundred.
'Forward, the Light Brigade!
Charge for the guns' he said:
Into the valley of Death
Rode the six hundred.

The Charge of the Light Brigade
by Lord Alfred Tennyson

Biography: Alfred Tennyson was born in England in 1809. He was Poet Laureate of Great Britain and Ireland during much of Queen Victoria's reign and remains one of the most popular British poets. He was the most renowned poet of the Victorian era. His work includes "In Memoriam," "The Charge of the Light Brigade" and 'Idylls of the King'. He died in 1892.

Key words: league - দূরত্বের মাপবিশেষ (প্রায় ৩ মাইল বা ৪.৮ কি.মি.); onward - সামনে; valley - উপত্যকা; ride- যোড়ায় চড়ে এগিয়ে যাওয়া; Light Brigade - খুদে সেনা; valley of Death - মৃত্যু উপত্যকা।

Answer : There are several themes of the poem above. Death, duty, honour and respect, warfare and courage are major of them. A commander does not stop though he knows there is death ahead. He must command his soldiers until his death. Similarly, the soldiers obeying the command will charge the enemy forces that had been seizing their guns. They will not hesitate to head into the valley of Death.

12 Write down the theme of the following poem (Not more than 50 words).

'Forward, the Light Brigade!
Was there a man dismay'd?
Not tho' the soldiers knew
Some one had blunder'd:
Theirs not to make reply,
Theirs not to reason why,
Theirs but to do and die:
Into the valley of Death
Rode the six hundred.

The Charge of the Light Brigade
by Lord Alfred Tennyson

Biography: see appreciation no. 11

Key words: forward- সামনে এগিয়ে যাওয়া; blunder- বোকার মতো ভুল করা; dismay- হতাশ করা।

Answer : The main themes of the poem are death, duty, courage, warfare. This is a poem about the courage of soldiers. Soldiers have to obey the commands. Even if they understand that their commander has made a terrible mistake, they must not disobey the command. So, they follow orders and ride into the "valley of Death".

13 Write down the theme of the following poem (Not more than 50 words).

Plunged in the battery-smoke
Right thro' the line they broke;
Cossack and Russian
Reel'd from the sabre-stroke
Shatter'd and sunder'd.
Then they rode back, but not
Not the six hundred.
Cannon to right of them,
Cannon to left of them,
Cannon in behind them
Volley'd and thunder'd

The Charge of the Light Brigade
by Lord Alfred Tennyson

Biography: see appreciation no. 11

Key words: plunge- নিমজ্জিত করা, ঢুকিয়ে দেওয়া; shatter- ভেঙে চুরমার করা; sunder- পৃথক করা; cannon- কামান; thunder- বজপাত হওয়া।

Answer : The main themes of the poem are death, duty, courage, respect and honour, warfare. In this poem even if the soldiers are small in number, they have to fight following the command. They are courageous and have the respect to their commander's order.

14 Write down the theme of the following poem (Not more than 50 words).

She walks in beauty, like the night
Of cloudless climes and starry skies;
And all that's best of dark and bright
Meet in her aspect and her eyes :
Thus mellowed to that tender light
Which heaven to gaudy day denies.

She Walks in Beauty
by Lord Byron

Biography: Lord Byron was a British poet, peer, politician, and a leading figure in the Romantic movement. He is regarded as one of the greatest British poets and is best known for his amorous lifestyle and his brilliant use of the English language. He was born in 1788 and died in 1824 at the age of only 36.

Key words: clime- দেশ, ভূ-খণ্ড; starry- তারাময়; aspect- দিক; mellow- নরম ও সুমিষ্ট করা বা হওয়া; gaudy- জমকালো।

Answer : The theme of the poem is a woman's exceptional beauty, internal as well as external. The above lines describe the feelings of a lover or the poet. Here the poet expresses the physical beauty of her beloved.

15 Write down the theme of the following poem (Not more than 50 words).

I died for beauty, but was scarce
Adjusted in the tomb,
When one who died for truth was lain
In an adjoining room.

He questioned softly why I failed?
'For beauty,' I replied.
'And I for truth- the two are one;
We brethren are,' he said.

And so, as kinsmen met a-night,
We talked between the rooms,
Until the moss had reached our lips,
And covered up our names.

I Died For Beauty
by Emily Dickinson

Answer : The speaker says that she died for beauty. She is not alone. There lay a man next to her who died for truth. The man declared that Truth and Beauty are the same and so he and the speaker are "Brethren".

16 Write down the theme of the following poem (Not more than 50 words).

The buzz saw snarled and rattled in the yard
And made dust and dropped stove-length sticks of wood,
Sweet-scented stuff when the breeze drew across it.
And from there those that lifted eyes could count
Five mountain ranges one behind the other
Under the sunset far into Vermont.
And the saw snarled and rattled, snarled and rattled,
As it ran light, or had to bear a load.

Out, Out
by Robert Frost

Answer : The poem depicts the social realities of the poet's time. In the first line we see that the saw is a machine, making animal noises "snarling" and "rattling". If a person were to look around the scene, he would encounter the beauty of Vermont and the five mountains.

17 Write down the theme of the following poem (Not more than 50 words).

To please the boy by giving him the half hour
That a boy counts so much when saved from work.
His sister stood beside him in her apron
To tell them 'Supper,' At the word, the saw,
As if to prove saws knew what supper meant,
Leaped out at the boy's hand, or seemed to leap-
He must have given the hand. However it was,
Neither refused the meeting, But the hand!
The boy's first outcry was a rueful laugh,

Out, Out
by Robert Frost

Answer : The above lines are an exquisite piece of literary work that provides social realities. The day was almost over. The boy's sister comes with the supper. Right then the saw acted as though it knew what supper means. The boy did not pay attention and put his hand into the saw and the saw completed its supper.

18 Write down the theme of the following poem (Not more than 50 words).

The doctor, he when comes. Don't let him, sister!"
So. But the hand was gone already.
The doctor put him in the dark of ether.
He lay and puffed his lips out with his breath.
And then-the watcher at his pulse took fright.
No one believed. They listened at his heart.
Little-less-nothing!-and that ended it.
No more to build on there, And they, since they
Were not the one dead, turned to their affairs.

Out, Out

Biography: Emily Dickinson was born on December 10, 1830. She was an American poet. Unrecognized in her own time, Dickinson is known posthumously for her innovative use of form and syntax. Dickinson died of kidney disease in Amherst, Massachusetts, on May 15, 1886, at the age of 55. She was laid to rest in her family plot at West Cemetery. The Homestead, where Dickinson was born, is now a museum.

Key words: scarce- অপূর্ণ; adjusted- সামঞ্জস্যপূর্ণ; tomb- সমাধি, কবর; adjoining- সংলগ্ন, পার্শ্ববর্তী; brethren- ভাই-ভাই; kinsmen- আত্মীয়।

Biography: Robert Frost was born in March 26, 1874. He was an American poet. A four-time Pulitzer Prize winner in poetry, American Robert Frost depicted realistic New England life through language and situations familiar to the common man. "The Road Not Taken", "Out, Out", "Stopping By Woods On a Snowy Evening" are some of his famous poems. He died on January 29, 1963.

Key words: buzz- বন বন, বৌ বৌ; snarl- কুশ্ব; rattle- বানবান করা; dust- ধূলা; yard- উঠান।

Biography: see appreciation no. 16

Key words: please- খুশি করা; prove- প্রমাণ করা; leap- লাফ দেওয়া; refuse- প্রত্যাখ্যান করা; outcry- ভয়াবহ চিৎকার; rueful- অনুতাপপূর্ণ।

Biography: see appreciation no. 16

Key words: puff- জোরে নিশ্বাস ফেলা; breath- নিশ্বাস; affair- দৈনন্দিন কাজকর্ম।

by Robert Frost

Answer : The theme of the poem is the social realities. The little boy cried out and requested his sister not to let the doctor cut off his hand. But the hand was already gone. The boy died but the people who were a part of his life could do nothing, they went on with their lives.

Appreciating Short Story (Textual)

[প্রিয় শিক্ষার্থী, নিম্নে প্রদত্ত Text গুলো বিভিন্ন কলেজ পরীক্ষায় প্রশ্ন হিসেবে আসায় এগুলোর উত্তর সংযোজন করা হল। প্রকৃতপক্ষে NCTB পূণীত সর্বশেষ প্রশ্নকাঠামো ও নির্দেশনা অনুযায়ী 11 নং প্রশ্ন হিসেবে Appreciating Short Stories/Poems থাকবে। সেক্ষেত্রে Non-textual অংশের Short Story গুলো বেশি বেশি অনুশীলন করলে উপকৃত হবে।]

19 Write down the theme of the following story (Not more than 50 words).

In the Bengali language there is a modern maxim which can be translated, "He who learns to read and write rides in a carriage and pair." In English there is a similar proverb, 'Knowledge is power.' It is an offer of a prospective bribe to the student, a promise of an ulterior reward which is more important than knowledge itself.....

Unfortunately, our very education has been successful in depriving us of our real initiative and our courage of thought. The training we get in our schools has the constant implication in it that it is not for us to produce but to borrow. And we are casting about to borrow our educational plans from European institutions. The trampled plants of Indian corn are dreaming of recouping their harvest from the neighbouring wheat fields. To change the figure, we forget that, for proficiency in walking, it is better to train the muscles of our own legs than to strut upon wooden ones of foreign make, although they clatter and cause more surprise at our skill in using them than if they were living and real.

But when we go to borrow help from a foreign neighbourhood we overlook the fact that among the Europeans the living spirit of the University is widely spread in their society, their parliament, their literature, and the numerous activities of their corporate life.

Key words: maxim- বাণী, প্রবচন; bribe- ঘুষ; reward- পুরস্কার; deprive- বঞ্চিত করা; implication- জড়ানো; borrow- ধার করা।

Answer : The main theme of the story is the limitation of our education. In our education system, we learn only to pass the examination and get a good job. We follow the European system of education leaving our own. In fact, our education is depriving us of our real initiative and courage of thought.

20 Write down the theme of the following story (Not more than 50 words).

According to some myths and legends, Gazi Pir was a Muslim saint who is said to have spread Islam in the parts of Bengal close to the Sundarbans. He was credited with many miracles. For example, he could supposedly calm dangerous animals and make them docile. He is usually depicted in paats or scroll paintings riding a fierce-looking Bengal tiger, a snake in his hand, but in no apparent danger. According to some stories, he also fought crocodiles who threatened the people of a region full of canals and creeks, indeed a kind of watery Jungle bordering the Bay of Bengal. Because of his alert and vigilant presence, all predatory animals were said to have been kept within bounds. It was also believed that he enabled villagers to live close to forests and jungles and cultivate their lands. Consequently people of these regions would pray to him for protection. The story of Gazi Pir has been preserved in folk literature. In fact, some Gazir Paat scrolls are part of the collection of the British Museum.

Key words: legend- লোককাহিনী; saint- দরবেশ; miracle- অলৌকিক; docile- বশীভূত; vigilant- সতর্ক; preserve- সংরক্ষণ করা।

Answer : The theme of the story is the legend of Gazi Pir. He was a Muslim saint and said to have spread Islam in southern Bengal. He is credited with many miracles like calming dangerous animals, making them docile, fighting crocodiles, helping villagers in danger etc.

21 Write down the theme of the following story (Not more than 50 words).

"Well, it's many years since we first met. How time does fly! We're none of us getting any younger. Do you remember the first time I saw you? You asked me to luncheon."
Did I remember?

It was twenty years ago and I was living in Paris. I had a tiny apartment in the Latin quarter overlooking a cemetery, and I was earning barely enough money to keep body and soul together. She had read a book of mine and had written to me about it. I answered, thanking her, and presently I received from her another letter saying that she was passing through Paris and would like to have a chat with me; but her time was limited, and the only free moment she had was on the following Thursday; she was spending the morning at the Luxembourg and would I give her a little luncheon at Foyot's afterwards? Foyot's is a restaurant at which the French senators eat, and it was so far beyond my means that I had never even thought of going there. But I was flattered, and I was too young to have learned to say no to a woman.... I had eighty francs (gold francs) to last me the rest of the month, and a modest luncheon should not cost more than fifteen. If I cut out coffee for the next two weeks I could manage well enough. I answered that I would meet my friend-by correspondence-at Foyot's on Thursday at half-past twelve.

She was not so young as I expected and in appearance imposing rather than attractive. She was, in fact, a woman of forty.....and she gave me the impression of having more teeth, white and large and even, than were necessary for any practical purpose. She was talkative, but since she seemed inclined to talk about me I was prepared to be an attentive listener.

I was startled when the bill of fare was brought, for the prices were a great deal higher than I had anticipated. But she reassured me.

"I never eat anything for luncheon," she said.

"Oh, don't say that!" I answered generously.

"I never eat more than one thing. I think people eat far too much nowadays. A little fish, perhaps. I wonder if they have any salmon."

Key words: chat- খোশ গথ করা; limited- সীমিত; flatter- তোষামোদ করা; purpose- উদ্দেশ্য; startle- বিস্মিত হওয়া; anticipate- আশা করা।

Answer : The theme of the story is the result of being flattered. The writer of the story was deceived by a woman. As the writer was young, he was flattered and he entertained her at an expensive restaurant. The lady cheated him by ordering costly food items.

22 Write down the theme of the following story (Not more than 50 words).

... .. (T)he Negro is still not free... .. the life of the Negro is still sadly crippled by the manacles of segregation and the chains of discrimination... (T)he Negro lives on a lonely island of poverty in the midst of the vast ocean of material prosperity... (T)he Negro is still languishing in the corners of American society and finds himself an exile in his own land. So we have come here today to dramatize a shameful condition...

I say to you today, my friends, so even though we face the difficulties of today and tomorrow, I still have a dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American dream.

I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed : "We hold these truths to be self-evident; that all men are created equal."

I have a dream that one day on the red hills of Georgia, the sons of former slaves and the sons of former slave owners will be able to sit down together at the table of brotherhood.

I have a dream that one day even the state of Mississippi, a state sweltering with the heat of injustice, sweltering with the heat of oppression, will be transformed into an oasis of freedom and justice.

I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character.

Key words: cripple- পঙ্গু; manacle- হাতকড়ি; segregation- বিচ্ছিন্নকরণ; languish- নিসেজ হওয়া; shameful- লজ্জাজনক; oppression- অত্যাচার।

Answer : The passage is about the struggle and discrimination of the black people. Here the speaker talked about impartiality and justice indifferent of races, religion, gender etc. He expressed his dream that there will be a society/nation where every person will enjoy the same opportunity, without facing any discrimination.

23 What is the theme of the extract chosen from "The Luncheon". (Not more than 50 words).

"I never drink anything for luncheon," she said.

Answer : The theme of the extract chosen from "The Luncheon" is the result of being flattered. The writer of the story was deceived by a woman.

Appreciating Short Poems (Non-textual)

24 Write down the theme of the following poem (Not more than 50 words).

[DinajB- '17]

TIME, you old gipsyman,
Will you not stay,
Put up your caravan
Just for one day?
All things I'll give you
Will you be my guest,
Bells for your jennet
Of silver the best,
Goldsmiths shall beat you
A great golden ring,
Peacocks will bow to you,
Little boys sing,
Oh, and sweet girls will
Festoon you with may.
Time, you old gipsy,

Biography: Ralph Hudgson was an English poet. He was born on 9 September 1871. He was very popular in his lifetime. In 1954, he was awarded the Queen's Gold Medal for Poetry. He died on 3 November 1962.

Key words: gipsy- যাযাবর; stay- থাকা; guest- অতিথি; bow- মাথা নত করা; haste- তাড়াতাড়ি করা।

Why hasten away?

Answer: The theme of the poem is the value of time. Time never stops. It always runs and runs. For this, the poet names time 'an old gipsy man'. To stop time, the poet offers time different valuable things. But it doesn't stop.

25 Write down the theme of the following poem (Not more than 50 words).

[SB '17]

Under the greenwood tree
Who loves to lie with me?
And turn his merry note
Unto the sweet bird's throat?
Come hither, come hither, come hither
Here shall he see
No enemy
But winter and rough weather.

Who doth ambition shun,
And loves to live i 'the sun'
Seeking the foods he eats
And pleas'd with what he gets,
Come hither, come hither, come hither
Here shall he see
No enemy
But winter and rough weather.

Biography: see appreciation no. 03

Key words: lie- শয়ন করা; merry- উল্লাসিত, উৎফুল্ল; throat- গলা; rough- রুঢ়, বাজে; ambition- উচ্চাকাঙ্ক্ষা ।

Under the Greenwood Tree by William Shakespeare

Answer : The theme of the poem "Under the Greenwood Tree" is of friendship. The speaker asks his friend to come and sing with him under the tree. Here he will find friendship and happiness. The sweet voice of birds will make him feel relaxed. Under the tree, he will have no enemy except winter and rough weather.

26 Write down the theme of the following poem (Not more than 50 words).

Father! father! where are you going?
O do not walk so fast.
Speak, father, speak to your little boy,
Or else I shall be lost.

The night was dark, no father was there;
The child was wet with dew;
The mire was deep, & the child did weep,
And away the vapour flew.

BIOGRAPHY : see appreciation no. 04

Key Words: lose- হারিয়ে যাওয়া; mire- কালিমালিমা, কালিমাখা; weep- ক্রন্দন করা, কাঁদা; vapour- বাষ্প ।

The Little Boy Lost by William Blake

Answer : *The Little Boy Lost* begins with a boy walking behind his father and asking the father to slow his pace so he does not get lost. In the illustration that accompanies the poem, the child is actually following a dim light (referred to in the poem as a vapour). Night comes and the little boy is lost walking in soggy ground, covered in mud, and weeping as the vapour flies away from him.

27 Write down the theme of the following poem (Not more than 50 words).

The little boy lost in the lonely fen,
Led by the wand'ring light,
Began to cry, but God ever nigh,
Appeared like his father in white.

He kissed the child and by the hand led
And to his mother brought,
Who in sorrow pale, thro' the lonely dale
Her little weeping boy sought.

BIOGRAPHY: see appreciation no. 04

Key Words: lonely fen- নির্জন বিল; wandering light- ভাসমান আলো; pale- মলিন, বিবর্ণ; lonely dale- নির্জন উপত্যকা; sought- খুঁজে পাওয়া ।

The Little Boy Found by William Blake

Answer : One of the major themes in *The Little Boy Found* is the presence of God in people's lives. Another theme is the vulnerability of innocence. Innocence is endangered specially when it is ignorant of 'woe' in life. In the poem, the theme of parenting has also been expressed.

28 Write down the theme of the following poem (Not more than 50 words).

'I have no name:
I am but two days old.'
What shall I call thee?
'I happy am,
Joy is my name.'
Sweet joy befall thee!
Pretty joy!
Sweet joy, but two days old.
Sweet joy I call thee:
Thou dost smile,
I sing the while,
Sweet joy befall thee!

Infant Joy
by William Blake

Answer : The nature of the child is the theme of this poem. William Blake saw the natural child as an image of the creative imagination which is the human beings spiritual core. He was concerned about the way in which social institutions such as the school system and parental authority, crushed the capacity for imaginative vision. The child's capacity for joy and play are expressions of this imagination.

29 Write down the theme of the following poem (Not more than 50 words).

Tyger Tyger, burning bright,
In the forests of the night;
What immortal hand or eye,
Could frame thy fearful symmetry?

In what distant deeps or skies.
Burnt the fire of thine eyes?
On what wings dare he aspire?
What the hand, dare seize the fire?

The Tyger
by William Blake

Answer : The theme of the poem is the process of the tiger's creation and its end. The tiger has an awe inspiring but well proportioned figure. The poet can hardly believe that the creator of the lamb could dare create such a creature as the tiger. The amazing creative power of God is also an important theme of the poem.

30 Write down the theme of the following poem (Not more than 50 words).

O Rose thou art sick.
The invisible worm,
That flies in the night
In the howling storm:

Has found out thy bed
Of crimson joy:
And his dark secret love
Does thy life destroy.

The Sick Rose
by William Blake

Answer : Mortality is one of the major themes of the poem. Everything of this world has to leave and the rose is no exception. Again, love is a wonderful theme. But this love is dark. The worm loves rose for a beautiful abode but its secret love destroys the rose at the end.

31 Write down the theme of the following poem (Not more than 50 words).

Pity would be no more,
If we did not make somebody Poor:
And Mercy no more could be,
If all were as happy as we;

And mutual fear brings peace;
Till the selfish loves increase.

BIOGRAPHY see appreciation no. 04

Key Words: thee- তোমাকে; befall- ঘটনা; pretty- সুন্দর;
thou- তুমি; dost- কোনো কিছু করা।

BIOGRAPHY : see appreciation no. 04

Key Words: burning bright- তীব্র আলোকময়; immortal- অবিনশ্বর;
frame- গড়া বা গঠন করা; fearful- ভীতিকর, ভয়ানক; symmetry- যথাযথ
সামঞ্জস্য বা ভারসাম্য; thine- তোমার; dare- কোনো কিছু করার মতো সাহস করা;
aspire- উচ্চাকাঙ্ক্ষা; seize- জব্দ করা।

BIOGRAPHY : See appreciation no. 04

Key Words: thou- তুমি, তুই; invincible- অপরাজেয়;
howling- হুঙ্কার দেওয়া; thy- তোমার, তোর, আপনার;
crimson- গাঢ় লাল।

BIOGRAPHY see appreciation no. 04

Key Words: pity- দয়া, মায়া; mercy- ক্ষমা, করুণা; mutual- পারস্পরিক;
increase- বৃদ্ধি পাওয়া; spreads- মেলে ধরা; bait- টোপ; underneath-
নিচে, তলদেশে; caterpillar- শূয়া পোকা; mystery- রহস্য; deceit- কপটতা,
প্রতারণা; ruddy- স্বাস্থ্যবৃদ্ধি; raven- দাঁড় কাক, বায়স; in vain- বৃথা, বিফলে।

Then Cruelty knits a snare,
And spreads his baits with care.

He sits down with holy fears,
And waters the ground with tears:
Then Humility takes its root
Underneath his foot.

Soon spreads the dismal shade
Of Mystery over his head;
And the Caterpillar and Fly,
Feed on the Mystery.

And it bears the fruit of Deceit,
Ruddy and sweet to eat;
And the Raven his nest has made
In its thickest shade.

The Gods of the earth and sea,
Sought thro' Nature to find this Tree
But their search was all in vain:
There grows one in the Human Brain

The Human Abstract
by William Blake

Answer : This poem offers a closer analysis of the four virtues—Mercy, Pity, Peace, and Love—that constituted both God and Man in “The Divine Image”. The speaker argues that Pity could not exist without poverty, that Mercy would not be necessary if everyone was happy, that the source of Peace is in fear, which gives rise to only “selfish loves”. The poem describes how Cruelty plants and waters a tree in “the Human Brain”. The roots of the tree are Humility, the leaves are Mystery, and the fruit is Deceit.

32 Write down the theme of the following poem (Not more than 50 words).

Is this a holy thing to see,
In a rich and fruitful land,
Babes reduced to misery,
Fed with cold and usurious hand?
Is that trembling cry a song?
Can it be a song of joy?
And so many children poor?
It is a land of poverty!

And their sun does never shine.
And their fields are bleak & bare.
And their ways are fill'd with thorns.
It is eternal winter there

Holy Thursday
by William Blake

Answer : The theme of the poem is the treatment of the contemporary English society towards the children. Here, he is more direct, questioning the holiness of a day that essentially celebrates the existence of poverty.

33 Write down the theme of the following poem (Not more than 50 words).

Little Lamb who made thee
Dost thou know who made thee
Gave thee life & bid thee feed.
By the stream & o'er the mead;
Gave thee clothing of delight,
Softest clothing woolly bright;
Gave thee such a tender voice,
Making all the vales rejoice!
Little Lamb who made thee
Dost thou know who made thee

Little Lamb I'll tell thee,
Little Lamb I'll tell thee!
He is called by thy name,
For he calls himself a Lamb:

BIOGRAPHY : see appreciation no. 04

Key Words: fruitful- ফলপূসু; misery- দুঃখ, দুর্দশা;
usurious- কৌসীদ; trembling- ভিত্তিকর; eternal- চিরস্থায়ী।

Biography see appreciation no. 04

Key Words: thee- তোমাকে, তাকে; dost- করা (do); stream-
নদী, জলাভূমি; mead- তৃণভূমি; woolly- পশমি; vale- উপত্যকা; rejoice-
আনন্দিত করা; meek- নম্র; mild- কোমল।

He is meek & he is mild,
He became a little child:
I a child & thou a lamb,
We are called by his name.
Little Lamb God bless thee.
Little Lamb God bless thee.

The Lamb
by William Blake

Answer : In this poem, Blake follows his usual theme of existence through the use of rhetorical questions and biblical allusions. He alludes to the beliefs of Christianity that God is the Creator and Jesus is the Lamb of God, the child of God. Thus, childhood innocence is a prevalent theme found in the poem.

34 Write down the theme of the following poem (Not more than 50 words).

I wander thro' each charter'd street,
Near where the charter'd Thames does flow.
And mark in every face I meet
Marks of weakness, marks of woe.

In every cry of every Man,
In every Infants cry of fear,
In every voice: in every ban,
The mind-forg'd manacles I hear

London
by William Blake

Answer : The theme of the poem "London" is an indictment of English society, the monarchy, the church, and the law. In this poem, Blake addresses the ways in which these institutions affect and repress daily life in London.

35 Write down the theme of the following poem (Not more than 50 words).

To Mercy Pity Peace and Love,
All pray in their distress:
And to these virtues of delight
Return their thankfulness.

For Mercy Pity Peace and Love,
Is God, our father dear,
And Mercy Pity Peace and Love,
Is Man his child and care.

For Mercy has a human heart
Pity, a human face:
And Love, the human form divine,
And Peace, the human dress.

Then every man of every clime,
That prays in his distress,
Prays to the human form divine
Love Mercy Pity Peace.

And all must love the human form,
In heathen, turk or jew.
Where Mercy, Love & Pity dwell,
There God is dwelling too.

The Divine Image
by William Blake

Answer : The theme of the poem is that how the human mind sees the nature and its Creator. Here, the speaker can only see human beings in the light of his/her own partial vision of God. God in man's image is also a related theme of the poem.

36 Write down the theme of the following poem (Not more than 50 words).

We look before and after,
And pine for what is not:

Our sincerest laughter
With some pain is fraught;

Biography : see appreciation no. 04

Key Words: wander- উদ্দেশ্যহীনভাবে ঘুরে বেড়ানো; ban- নিষেধাজ্ঞা; manacles- হাতকড়ি।

Biography see appreciation no. 04

Key Words: distress- দুর্দশা, যন্ত্রণা; divine- ঈশ্বরীয়; clime- দেশ, ভূ-খণ্ড; heathen- বিধর্মী, কাফের; turk- তুর্কি; jew- ইহুদি; dwell- বাস করা।

Biography : Percy Bysshe Shelley (1792-1822) was one of the major English Romantic poets. His famous poems are 'Ozymandias', 'Ode to the West Wind', 'To a Skylark', 'Music', 'When Soft Voices Die', 'The Cloud' and 'The Masque of Anarchy'.

Key Words: pine- আকুল প্ৰতী ৷ করা; pain- যন্ত্রণা; fraught- পরিপূর্ণ; sweetest- সবচেয়ে মধুর; saddest- সবচেয়ে কষ্টকর।

Our sweetest songs are those that tell of saddest thought.

To a Skylark
by PB Shelley

Answer : Human aspirations, happiness and sadness are the theme of the above five lines of the poem *To a Skylark* by PB Shelley. Human being always thinks about his past and less future and thinks about what is not. According to the poet, nature has a super power to inspire and delight the human spirit.

37 Write down the theme of the following poem (Not more than 50 words).

Once more the storm is howling, and half hid
Under this cradle-hood and coverlid
My child sleeps on. There is no obstacle
But Gregory's wood and one bare hill
Whereby the haystack- and roof-levelling wind,
Bred on the Atlantic, can be stayed;
And for an hour I have walked and prayed
Because of the great gloom that is in my mind.

A Prayer for My Daughter
by W.B. Yeats

Answer : Social anarchy of the contemporary society and a father's anxiety for her loving daughter is the theme of this poem above. Yeats here expresses his worry about how to protect his new born baby from the hard times ahead.

38 Write down the theme of the following poem (Not more than 50 words).

I have walked and prayed for this young child an hour
And heard the sea-wind scream upon the tower,
And under the arches of the bridge, and scream
In the elms above the flooded stream;
Imagining in excited reverie
That the future years had come,
Dancing to a frenzied drum,
Out of the murderous innocence of the sea.

A Prayer for My Daughter
by W.B. Yeats

Answer : Social anarchy of the contemporary society and a father's anxiety for her loving daughter is the theme of this poem above. Here a father, the poet himself, is in anxiety to protect his new born baby from the chaos and confusion of future which has already started. So he is praying for her loving daughter.

39 Write down the theme of the following poem (Not more than 50 words).

May she be granted beauty and yet not
Beauty to make a stranger's eye distraught,
Or hers before a looking-glass, for such,
Being made beautiful overmuch,
Consider beauty a sufficient end,
Lose natural kindness and maybe
The heart-revealing intimacy
That chooses right, and never find a friend.

A Prayer for My Daughter
by W.B. Yeats

Answer : The deep love and concern of a father for his daughter is the theme of the above poem. Yeats hopes that his daughter may get beauty but he does not like her to be paragon of beauty. He believes that beauty often misleads a woman and becomes harmful for her.

40 Write down the theme of the following poem (Not more than 50 words).

Helen being chosen found life flat and dull
And later had much trouble from a fool,
While that great Queen, that rose out of the spray,
Being fatherless could have her way
Yet chose a bandy-legged smith for man.
It's certain that fine women eat
A crazy salad with their meat
Whereby the Horn of Plenty is undone.

A Prayer to My Daughter
by W.B. Yeats

Answer : In this stanza, Yeats recounts the miserable fate that befell the Helen of Troy and Venus. Both were immensely beautiful, but carried huge load of curse and suffering. They were condemned to marry a "fool" and a "bandy-legged smith".

Biography : see appreciation no 08

Key Words: howling- হুঙ্কার; cradle- দোলনা; obstacle- বাধা; bare hill- শূন্য পাহাড়; haystack- খড়ের গাদা; Breed- উৎপন্ন হওয়া; gloom- হতাশা ভাব।

Biography : see appreciation no 08

Key Words: scream- চিৎকার; arch- ধনুকাকৃতি খিলান; elm- দেবদারু জাতীয় বৃক্ষবিশেষ; reverie- স্বপ্নলোক; frenzy- প্রবল উত্তেজনা, ক্ষিপ্ততা; innocence- নিষ্পাপতা।

Biography : see appreciation no 08

Key Words: grant- অনুমতি দেওয়া; distraught- বিহ্বল; overmuch- অতিমাত্রায়; sufficient- পর্যাপ্ত; intimacy- ঘনিষ্ঠতা।

Biography : see appreciation no 08

Key Words: dull- নিরস; trouble- সমস্যা; fatherless- পিতৃহীন; smith- কামার।

41 Write down the theme of the following poem (Not more than 50 words).

All the world's a stage,
And all the men and women merely players;
They have their exits and their entrances,
And one man in his time plays many parts.

All the world's a stage
by William Shakespeare

Biography : see appreciation no 03

Key Words: stage- মঞ্চ; merely- শুধুমাত্র; exit- প্রস্থান; entrance- প্রবেশ।

Answer: Human beings and their different role throughout their whole life in the world is the theme of this beautiful song by Shakespeare. Here Shakespeare compares the world to a stage of play where men and women are performer and they perform various roles in their entire life.

42 Write down the theme of the following poem (Not more than 50 words).

Time is endless in thy hands, my lord.
There is none to count thy minutes.
Days and nights pass and ages bloom and fade like flowers.
Thou knowest how to wait.
Thy centuries follow each other perfecting a small wild flower.
We have no time to lose,
and having no time we must scramble for a chance.
We are too poor to be late.
And thus it is that time goes by
while I give it to every querulous man who claims it,
and thine altar is empty of all offerings to the last.
At the end of the day I hasten in fear lest thy gate be shut;
but I find that yet there is time.

Endless Time
by Rabindranath Tagore

Biography: Rabindranath Tagore (7 May 1861 – 7 August 1941) was a Bengali polymath who reshaped Bengali literature and music, as well as Indian art with Contextual Modernism in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Author of *Gitanjali* and its "profoundly sensitive, fresh and beautiful verse", he became the first non-European to win the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1913. He composed our national anthem.

Key Words: endless- অফুরন্ত; bloom- প্ৰস্ফুটিত হওয়া; fade- বিবর্ণ হওয়া; wild- বন্য; scramble- হুড়োহুড়ি করা; querulous- কলহপ্ৰিয়।

Answer: The basic idea being conveyed through this poem is that of the infinite nature of time. The poet says time is endless and is in the hands of the creator God. Time has no beginning and no end and hence cannot be stopped. It goes on for ages and ages.

43 Write down the theme of the following poem (Not more than 50 words).

Life is a challenge- meet it.
Life is a gift- accept it.
Life is an adventure- dare it.
Life is a sorrow- overcome it.
Life is a tragedy- accept it.
Life is a duty- perform it.
Life is a game- play it.
Life is a mystery- unfold it.
Life is a song- sing it.
Life is an opportunity- take it.
Life is a promise- fulfill it.
Life is a struggle- fight it.
Life is a puzzle- solve it.

What Is Life?

Key words: gift- উপহার; accept- গ্ৰহণ করা; adventure- দুঃসাহসিক অভিযান; mystery- রহস্য; unfold- উন্মোচন করা; puzzle- ধাঁধা।

Answer : The theme of the poem is the practical picture of life. Life is not just full of dreams, it is full of difficulties. Human life is equally shared by sweet happiness and the bitterness of sorrows. It has many challenges, tragedies, struggles and promises.

44 Write down the theme of the following poem (Not more than 50 words).

When my mother died I was very young,
And my father sold me while yet my tongue,
Could scarcely cry weep weep weep weep,
So your chimneys I sweep & in soot I sleep.

There's little Tom Dacre, who cried when his head
That curled like a lamb's back was shav'd, so I said.
Hush Tom never mind it, for when your head's bare,
You know that the soot cannot spoil your white hair

And so he was quiet & that very night.
As Tom was sleeping, he had such a sight
That thousands of sweepers Dick, Joe, Ned & Jack
Were all of them lock'd up in coffins of black,

And by came an Angel who had a bright key
And he open'd the coffins & set them all free.

Biography: see appreciation no 04

Key words: soot- ঝুল; lamb- মেঘশাবক; spoil- নষ্ট করা; bright- উজ্জ্বল; leap- লাফ দেওয়া।

Then down a green plain leaping laughing they run
And wash in a river and shine in the Sun.

The Chimney Sweeper : When my mother died I was very young
by William Blake

Answer : The theme of the poem is criticism of child labour. Many children are born in poor families. The state, the church and the families force them to work in factories. There they clean chimneys. Their life is marked by sadness, abandonment and death.

45 Write down the theme of the following poem (Not more than 50 words).

When you are old and grey and full of sleep,
And nodding by the fire, take down this book,
And slowly read, and dream of the soft look
Your eyes had once, and of their shadows deep;
How many loved your moments of glad grace,
And loved your beauty with love false or true,
But one man loved the pilgrim soul in you,
And loved the sorrows of your changing face;

And bending down beside the glowing bars,
Murmur, a little sadly how Love fled
And paced upon the mountains overhead
And hid his face amid a crowd of stars.

When You Are Old
by W.B. Yeats

Answer : The theme of the poem is the difference between true love and false love. It was the poet who truly loved his beloved. His love for the lady was not transient and he cherished his admiration for her till death.

46 Write down the theme of the following poem (Not more than 50 words).

I met a traveller from an antique land
Who said : Two vast and trunkless legs of stone
Stand in the desert. Near them on the sand,
Half sunk, a shatter'd visage lies, whose frown
And wrinkled lip and sneer of cold command
Tell that its sculptor well those passions read
Which yet survive, stamp'd on these lifeless things.
The hand that mock'd them and the heart that fed.
And on the pedestal these words appear :
"My name is Ozymandias, king of kings :
Look on my works, ye Mighty, and despair!"
Nothing beside remains : round the decay
Of that colossal wreck, boundless and bare,
The lone and level sands stretch far away.

Ozymandias
by P.B. Shelley

Answer : The theme of the poem is the transience of man's power and glory. Ozymandias was the mighty king of an antique land who built a huge and gorgeous statue of himself. Now nothing remains for him and his gigantic statue is surrounded by the sands of the desert.

47 Write down the theme of the following poem (Not more than 50 words).

There is no Frigate like a Book
To take us Lands away
Nor any cursers like a page
Of prancing Poverty-

This Traverse may the poorest take
Without oppress of Toll-
How frugal is the Chariot
That bears the Human Soul-

There is no Frigate like a Book
by Emily Dickinson

Answer : The theme of the poem is the power of books. A book can make one familiar with many things of home and abroad. It doesn't cost one much money. A book, especially one of poetry, is like the chariot of human soul that needs little expenditure.

48 Write down the theme of the following poem (Not more than 50 words).

Twinkle, twinkle, little, star,
How I wonder what you are!
Up above the world so high,
Like a diamond in the sky.

When the blazing sun is gone,

Biography: see appreciation no 08

Key words: grey- ধূসর; nod- মাথা নাড়ানো; shadow- ছায়া;
grace- অনুগ্রহ; pilgrim- তীর্থযাত্রী; amid- মধ্যে।

Biography: see appreciation no 36

Key words: traveller- ভ্রমণকারী; antique- প্রাচীন; stone- পাথর;
sneer- বিদ্রুপ; frown- ভ্রুকুটি; colossal- প্রকাণ্ড।

Biography: see appreciation no 15

Key words: frigate- দ্রুতগামী রক্ষী জাহাজ; prancing- বল্লিত গতি;
traverse- ভ্রমণ; oppress- নিষ্ঠুরভাবে শাসন করা; frugal- মিত্রায়ী।

Biography: Jane Taylor (1783–1824) was an English poet and novelist. Jane Taylor was born in London. Taylor frequently collaborated with her sister Ann, and the two were some of the earliest known children's poets. A few of their poems, including "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star" (first published as "The Star"), later became nursery rhymes. The pair's publications include *Original Poems for Infant Minds* (1804), *Rhymes for the*

When he nothing shines upon,
Then you show your little light,
Twinkle, twinkle, all the night.

Then the traveller in the dark,
Thanks you for your tiny spark;
He could not see which way to go,
If you did not twinkle so.
In the dark blue sky you keep,
And often through my curtains peep,
For you never shut your eye,
Till the sun is in the sky.

As your bright and tiny spark
Lights the traveller in the dark,
Though I know not what you are,
Twinkle, twinkle, little star.

Twinkle, twinkle, little, star
by Jane Taylor

Answer : The theme of the poem is the twinkling of stars at night. When the sun does not shine, the stars twinkle and help the travellers to walk in the dark. They give light until the sun rises again.

49 Write down the theme of the following poem (Not more than 50 words).

Fair Daffodils, we weep to see
You haste away so soon;
As yet the early-rising sun
Has not attain'd his noon.
Stay, stay,
Until the hasting day
Has run
But to the even-song;
And, having pray'd together we
Will go with you along.
We have short time to stay, as you
We have as short a spring;
As quick a growth to meet decay,
As you, or anything.
We die
As your hours do, and dry
Away,
Like to the summer's rain;
Or as the pearls of morning's dew,
Ne'er to be found again.

To Daffodils
by Robert Herrick

Answer : The theme of the poem is the transience of human life like daffodil flowers. The daffodils fade away even before the midday sun arrives. Likewise, human life is also transient. And like the pearls of morning dew, a lost life is never found again.

50 Write down the theme of the following poem (Not more than 50 words).

What is this life if, full of care,
We have no time to stand and stare?
Not time to stand beneath the boughs
And stare as long as sheep or cows.
No time to see, when woods we pass,
Where squirrels hide their nuts in grass.
No time to see, in broad daylight,
Streams full of stars, like skies at night.
A poor life this if full of care,
We have no time to stand and stare.

Leisure
by W.H. Davies

Answer : The theme of the poem is the value of recreation. Human life is very short. This life becomes dull and monotonous if we always engage ourselves in work. Looking at natural objects and recreation are no less important than work. Such recreation makes human life full of joy and worth.

51 Write down the theme of the following poem (Not more than 50 words).

"He prayeth best, who loveth best

Biography: Robert Herrick (baptised 24 August 1591 – buried 15 October 1674) was a 17th-century English lyric poet and cleric. He is best known for *Hesperides*, a book of poems. This includes the *carpe diem* poem "To the Virgins, to Make Much of Time", with the first line "Gather ye rosebuds while ye may".

Key words: weep- কাঁদা; haste- তাড়াতাড়ি; decay- যত্ন হওয়া।

Biography: William Henry Davies was born in 3 July 1871. He was a Welsh poet and writer. Davies became one of the most popular poets of his time. The principal themes in his work are observations about life's hardships, the ways in which the human condition is reflected in nature, his own tramping adventures and the various characters he met.

Key words: stare- স্থির দৃষ্টিতে তাকানো; beneath- নিচে; bough- বৃক্ষশাখা; hide- লুকানো; stream- নদী; nut- বাদাম।

Biography: Samuel Taylor Coleridge (21 October 1772 – 25 July 1834) was an English poet, literary critic, philosopher and theologian who, with his friend William Wordsworth, was a

All things both great and small;
For the dear God who loveth us,
He made and loveth all."

The Rime of the Ancient Mariner
by S.T. Coleridge

Answer : The theme of the poem is the significance of universal love. The Creator has made all living beings— both great and small. He loves all His creations equally. So we should also love all living and natural objects. Loving God's creations is the best prayer to God.

52 Write down the theme of the following poem (Not more than 50 words).

Alone, alone, all, all alone,
Alone on a wide wide sea!
And never a saint took pity on
My soul in agony.

Biography: see appreciation no 51

Key words: alone- একা একা; wide- প্রশস্ত; saint- সাধু, দরবেশ; take pity on- করুণা করা; soul- আত্মা; agony- যন্ত্রণা।

The many men, so beautiful!
The they all dead did lie
And a thousand thousand slimy things
Lives on; and so did I.

The Rime of the Ancient Mariner
by S.T. Coleridge

Answer : Here the poet depicts that wrongdoers can never go unpunished. If the mundane law fails to punish wrongdoers, nature never relieves them. Even neither God nor any saint relieves them of their punishment until they realize their misdeeds. The poet also expresses that not death but loneliness is the ultimate punishment for any individual.

53 Write down the theme of the following poem (Not more than 50 words).

"O Mary, go and call the cattle home,
And call the cattle home,
And call the cattle home
Across the sands of Dee";
The western wind was wild and dank with foam,
And all alone went she.
The western tide crept up along the sand,
And o'er and o'er the sand,
And round and round the sand,
As far as eye could see.
The rolling mist came down and his the land :
And never home came she.
"Oh! is it weed, or fish, or floating hair--
A trees of golden hair,
A drowned maiden's hair
Above the nets at sea?
Was never salmon yet that shone so fair
Among the stakes on Dee."
They rowed her in across the rolling foam,
The cruel crawling foam,
The cruel hungry foam,
To her grave beside the sea :
But still the boatmen hear her call the cattle home
Across the sands of Dee.

Biography: Charles Kingsley, a 19th century priest and writer who worked under Queen Victoria, is known for novels like *Yeast*, *Alton Locke* and *Hypatia*. Born on June 12, 1819, in Devon, England, Charles Kingsley became a writer and priest of the Anglican church who took on social reforms, as seen in novels *Yeast* and *Alton Locke*. A poet and children's author who loved nature, Kingsley died in Eversley, England, on January 23, 1875.

Key words: cattle- গবাদি পশু; wind- বাতাস; dank- সোঁতসোঁতে; foam- ফেনা; tide- জোয়ার; float- ভাসা; drown- ডুবে যাওয়া।

The Sands of Dee
by Charles Kingsley

Answer : In this poem the poet vividly describes the gluttonous habit of the western wind which devoured a little girl, Mary when she went out to call her cattle across the sands of Dee. After the storm the boatmen found her dead body and buried her.

54 Write down the theme of the following poem (Not more than 50 words).

Ah, Love, let us be true
To one another for the world, which seems
To lie before us like a land of dreams,
So various, so beautiful, so new,
Hath really neither joy, nor love, nor light.
Nor certitude, nor peace, nor help to pain;
And we are here as on a darkling plain

Biography: Mathew Arnold was born on 24 December 1822. He was an English poet and cultural critic. Meditative and rhetorical, Arnold's poetry often wrestles with problems of psychological isolation. *Alaric at Rome: A Prize Poem* (1840), *Cromwell: A Prize Poem* (1843), *Empedocles on Etna and Other Poems* (1852), *Empedocles on Etna: A Dramatic Poem* (1900) etc. are some of his famous works.

Key words: various- বিভিন্ন; certitude- নিশ্চয়তা; peace- শান্তি;

Swept with confused alarms of struggle and flight,
Where ignorant armies clash by night.

Dover Beach

by Mathew Arnold

Answer : The theme of the poem is the glory of love in this cruel world. The world is full of enmities, clashes and bloodshed. It is love that can mark humanity and greatness, and show the mankind a light for moving forward in the journey of civilization.

55 Write down the theme of the following poem (Not more than 50 words).

Shall I compare thee to a summer's day?
Thou art more lovely and more temperate:
Rough winds do shake the darling buds of May,
And summer's lease hath all too short a date:
Sometime too hot the eye of heaven shines,
And often is his gold complexion dimm'd;
And every fair from fair sometime declines,
By chance, or nature's changing course untrimm'd;
But thy eternal summer shall not fade,
Nor lose possession of that fair thou ow'st,
Nor shall death brag thou wander'st in his shade,
When in eternal lines to time thou grow'st;
So long as men can breathe, or eyes can see,
So long lives this, and this gives life to thee.

Sonnet-XVIII

by W. Shakespeare

Answer : The above poem reveals the speaker's affection for his beloved. The poet is admiring her beloved by comparing her to a summer day, and then saying she is much more beautiful. He ends the poem by focusing on the subject, her beauty, and her qualities.

56 Write down the theme of the following poem (Not more than 50 words).

I wandered lonely as a Cloud
That floats on high o'er vales and Hills,
When all at once I saw a crowd,
A host, of golden Daffodils;
Beside the Lake, beneath the trees,
Fluttering and dancing in the breeze.
Continuous as the stars that shine
And twinkle on the milky way,
They stretched in never-ending line
Along the margin of a bay:
Ten thousand saw I at a glance,
Tossing their heads in sprightly dance.

I wandered Lonely as a Cloud

by W. Wordsworth

Answer : The above lines are about the soothing power of nature. Nature has a tremendous power of making people feel happy. Nature is spiritual, uplifting, soul-cleansing. If we all took time to revitalize by taking a walk and enjoying simple things like daffodils dancing in the breeze, our quality of life would be ten-fold.

57 Write down the theme of the following poem (Not more than 50 words).

Because I could not stop for Death –
He kindly stopped for me –
The Carriage held but just Ourselves –
And Immortality.
We slowly drove – He knew no haste
And I had put away
My labor and my leisure too,
For His Civility

Because I could not stop for Death

by Emily Dickinson

Answer : The above lines are very mystical. The speaker in this poem conceives death as courtly lover who is very kind hearted. The poet, busy with her earthly activities, has not sought death. Rather, death has kindly stopped at her house to carry her away, as a lover carries her beloved away. When death is carrying the poet to her bridal room in heaven, he (death) has no haste.

58 Write down the theme of the following poem (Not more than 50 words).

Now as I was young and easy under the apple boughs
About the lilting house and happy as the grass was green,
The night above the dingle starry,

Biography: see appreciation no 03

Key words: compare- তুলনা করা; summer- গ্রীষ্মকাল; shake- ঝাঁকানো; bud- অঙ্কুর; heaven- আকাশ; decline- হ্রাস পাওয়া।

Biography: William Wordsworth (7 April 1770 – 23 April 1850) was a major English Romantic poet who, with Samuel Taylor Coleridge, helped to launch the Romantic Age in English literature with their joint publication *Lyrical Ballads* (1798). He became England's poet laureate in 1843, a role he held until his death.

Key words: wander- উদ্দেশ্যহীনভাবে ঘুরে বেড়ানো; lonely- একাকী; float- ভাসা; beneath- নিচে; breeze- মৃদু বাতাস; margin- প্রান্ত, কিনারা।

Biography: see appreciation no 15.

Key words: kindly- দয়া করে; carriage- ঘোড়ার গাড়ি; immortality- অমরতত্ত্ব; haste- তাড়া; labor- পরিশ্রম; leisure- অবসর।

Biography: Dylan Thomas was born on October 27, 1914, South Wales. Though Thomas wrote exclusively in the English language, he has been acknowledged as one of the most important Welsh poets of the 20th century. He is noted for his original, rhythmic and

Time let me hail and climb
 Golden in the heydays of his eyes,
 And honoured among wagons I was prince of the apple towns
 And once below a time I lordly had the trees and leaves
 Trail with daisies and barley
 Down the rivers of the windfall light.

Fern Hill
by Dylan Thomas

Answer : The theme of the above text is time and youth. The speaker was once young and carefree. Time allowed the poet to greet and climb. The wagon drivers had lot of favour to the boy and let him climb on the wagons. He thought himself lord of the trees and leaves.

59 Write down the theme of the following poem (Not more than 50 words).

When my mother died I was very young,
 And my father sold me while yet my tongue
 Could scarcely cry 'weep! 'weep! 'weep! 'weep!
 So your chimneys I sweep, and in soot I sleep.

There's little Tom Dacre, who cried when his head,
 That curled like a lamb's back, was shaved: so I said,
 "Hush, Tom! never mind it, for when your head's bare,
 You know that the soot cannot spoil your white hair."

The Chimney Sweeper : When my mother died I was very young
by William Blake

Answer : The poem is about social criticism. The speaker lost his mother at an early age and was sold by his father. He did chimney sweeping which was a very dangerous job. He had a little joy and a lot of suffering. The little child could not enjoy his innocence rather he encountered the hard experience of life.

60 Write down the theme of the following poem (Not more than 50 words).

A thing of beauty is a joy for ever:
 Its loveliness increases; it will never
 Pass into nothingness; but still will keep
 A bower quiet for us, and a sleep
 Full of sweet dreams, and health, and quiet breathing.
 Therefore, on every morrow, are we wreathing
 A flowery band to bind us to the earth,

A thing of beauty is a joy forever
by John Keats

Biography: Born in London, England, on October 31, 1795, John Keats devoted his short life to the perfection of poetry marked by vivid imagery, great sensuous appeal and an attempt to express a philosophy through classical legend. In 1818 he went on a walking tour in the Lake District. His exposure and overexertion on that trip brought on the first symptoms of the tuberculosis, which ended his life in 1821.

Key words: joy- আনন্দ; increase- বৃদ্ধি; bower- কুঞ্জ; bind- বেঁধে রাখা।

Answer : The theme of the above text is the eternity of beauty. A beautiful thing is a source of eternal joy. Its attractiveness grows with the passage of time and its impact never fades away. It is the beauty of nature that keeps us attached to this earth.

61 Write down the theme of the following poem (Not more than 50 words).

Then took the other, as just as fair,
 And having perhaps the better claim
 Because it was grassy and wanted wear,
 Though as for that the passing there
 Had worn them really about the same,
 And both that morning equally lay
 In leaves no step had trodden black.
 Oh, I marked the first for another day!
 Yet knowing how way leads on to way
 I doubted if I should ever come back.
 I shall be telling this with a sigh
 Somewhere ages and ages hence:
 Two roads diverged in a wood, and I,
 I took the one less traveled by,
 And that has made all the difference.

The Road Not Taken
by Robert Frost

Biography: see appreciation no 16.

Key words: fair- সুন্দর, মনোরম; claim- দাবি; trodden- মাড়ানো, হাঁটা; doubt- সন্দেহ; diverge- বিচ্ছিন্ন; wood- বন, জঙ্গল।

Answer : The theme is about making choices between two ways. One way has been travelled many times before as it is safer, easier route. However, the other road has been used rarely and may be more problematic. He selects the path less travelled and by that indicates the poet's challenging attitude.

62 Write down the theme of the following poem (Not more than 50 words).

Let not Ambition mock their useful toil,
 Their homely joys, and destiny obscure;

Biography: Thomas Gray was an English poet, letter-writer, classical scholar and professor at Pembroke College, Cambridge. He is widely known for his "Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard", published in 1751.

Nor Grandeur hear with a disdainful smile
The short and simple annals of the Poor.

The boast of heraldry, the pomp of power,
And all that beauty, all that wealth e'er gave,
Awaits alike th' inevitable hour;
The paths of glory lead but to the grave.

Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard
by Thomas Gray

Answer : Here is a criticism of the ambitious and sophisticated people as well as glorification of the humble villagers buried in the churchyard. Usually the aristocratic and ambitious people ignore the poor villagers. They forget that they have to die, leaving behind all these worldly sources of pride.

63 Write down the theme of the following poem (Not more than 50 words).

'My name is Ozymandias, king of kings:
Look on my works, ye Mighty, and despair!
Nothing beside remains. Round the decay
Of that colossal wreck, boundless and bare,
The lone and level sands stretch far away.

Ozymandias
by P.B Shelley

Biography: see appreciation no. 36

Key words: mighty- শক্তিশালী; despair- হতাশা; decay- র; য; colossal- প্রকাণ্ড, বিশাল; wreck- ধ্বংস বা বিনাশ।

Answer : King Ozymandias was very powerful. He treated other kings as his subordinates. But with the passage of time, the pride, pomp and power of this powerful king turned into a heap of ruins. The poet here implies the irony that human power and greatness are temporary and futile.

64 Write down the theme of the following poem (Not more than 50 words).

Death closes all: but something ere the end,
Some work of noble note, may yet be done,
Not unbecoming men that strove with Gods.
The lights begin to twinkle from the rocks :
The long day wanes : the slow moon climbs : The deep
Moans round with many voices.
..... Come, my friends,
'Tis not too late to seek a newer world.

Ulysses
by Alfred Tennyson

Biography: see appreciation no. 11

Key words: noble- মহৎ; twinkle- মিট মিট করে জল্ল; rock- শিলাখণ্ড; wane- ীনকায় হওয়া; climb- আরোহণ করা।

Answer : The above lines indicate that death ends everything, but before death some noble work may still be done. Here we find the indomitable spirit of the speaker. The speaker tells his friends that it is never too late to go in search of newer lands.

65 Write down the theme of the following poem (Not more than 50 words).

Whose woods these are I think I know.
His home is in the village, though;
He will not see me stopping here.
To watch his woods fill up with snow.
My little horse must think it queer
To stop without a farmhouse near
Between the woods and frozen lake
The darkest evening of the year.

Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening
by Robert Frost

Biography: see appreciation no. 16

Key words: wood- বন, জঙ্গল; watch- দেখা; snow- তুষার; queer- অদ্ভুত, অস্বাভাবিক।

Answer : The above lines indicate that the poet is stopped by some woods on a snowy evening. His horse-ridden evening journey in the snow makes him realize two beautiful themes of life; the beauty of nature and sense of duty. The speaker praises the woods.

66 Write down the theme of the following poem (Not more than 50 words).

He gives his harness bells a shake
To ask if there is some mistake.
The only other sound's the sweep
Of easy wind and downy flake.

The woods are lovely, dark, and deep,
But I have promises to keep,
And miles to go before I sleep,
And miles to go before I sleep.

Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening
by Robert Frost

Biography: see appreciation no. 16

Key words: harness- ঘোড়াকে গাড়ির সঙ্গে জুড়ে দেওয়ার ও তাকে নিয়ন্ত্রণ করার জন্য ব্যবহৃত সরঞ্জাম; shake- ঝাঁকি; mistake- ভুল; flake- ছোট ছোট হালকা পাতলা টুকরা; promise- কথা দেওয়া।

Answer : The above lines have two beautiful themes that are beauty of nature and sense of duty. The speaker here praises the woods that are lovely, dark and deep. But inside his heart he feels the urge of completing his duties before his final sleep that means death.

67 Write down the theme of the following poem (Not more than 50 words).

Day after day, day after day,
We stuck, nor breath nor motion;
As idle as a painted ship,
Upon a Painted ocean.
Water, water, everywhere,
And all the boards did shrink;
Water, water, everywhere.
Nor any drop to drink.

The Rime of the Ancient Mariner
by S.T. Coleridge

Biography: see appreciation no. 51

Key words: stuck- আটকে থেকেরি; breath- নিশ্বাস; motion- নড়াচড়া; idle- অলস; ocean- সাগর; shrink- সংকুচিত হওয়া।

Answer : The lines indicate that the speaker is on ship and the ship is stuck in a ocean for several days. They are almost dying of thirst but tragedy is that having limitless water around them they cannot even drink a drop of water.

68 Write down the theme of the following poem (Not more than 50 words).

O wild West Wind, thou breath of Autumn's being,
Thou, from whose unseen presence the leaves dead
Are driven, like ghosts from an enchanter fleeing,
Yellow, and black, and pale, and hectic red,
Pestilence-stricken multitudes; O thou,
Who chariotest to their dark wintry bed
The winged seeds, where they lie cold and low,
Each like a corpse within its grave, until
Thine azure sister of the Spring shall blow
Her clarion o'er the dreaming earth, and fill
(Driving sweet buds like flocks to feed in air)
With living hues and odours plain and hill;
Wild Spirit, which art moving everywhere;
Destroyer and preserver; hear, oh, hear!

Ode to the West Wind
by P.B. Shelley

Biography: see appreciation no. 36

Key words: wild- বরা; breath- নিশ্বাস; enchanter- মুগ্ধকারি; pale- ফ্যাকাশে; pestilence- প্লেগ ইত্যাদির মতো মারাত্মক মহামারী রোগ; corpse- মৃতদেহ; grave- কবর; azure- উজ্জ্বল নীল।

Answer : The poet addresses the wild West Wind, the lifeblood of the autumn. It rushes through the woods and scatters the dead leaves of different colours everywhere. Again by causing plants to grow and flowers to bloom, it further fills the plains and the hills with various colours and fragrance.

69 Write down the theme of the following poem (Not more than 50 words).

How do I love thee? Let me count the ways.
I love thee to the depth and breath and height
My soul can reach, when feeling out of sight
For the ends of Being and idea Grace.
I love thee to the level of every day's.
Most quiet need, by sun and candlelight.
I love thee freely, as men strive for Right;
I love thee purely, as they turn from Praise.
I love thee with a passion put to use
In my old griefs, and with my childhood's faith.
I love thee with a love I seemed to lose
With my lost saints, I love thee with the breath,
Smiles, tears, of all my life! and, if God choose.
I shall but love thee better after death.

How Do I Love Thee (Sonnet-43)
by Elizabeth Barret Browning

Biography: Born in 1806 at Coxhoe Hall, Durham, England, Elizabeth Barrett Browning was an English poet of the Romantic Movement. The oldest of twelve children, Elizabeth was the first in her family born in England in over two hundred years. She was the wife of the famous poet Robert Browning. Elizabeth Barrett Browning died in Florence on June 29, 1861.

Key words: depth- গভীরতা; breath- শ্বাস-প্ৰশ্বাস; soul- আত্মা; sight- দৃষ্টিশক্তি; praise- প্রশংসা; passion- আবেগ; grief- দুঃখ; faith- বিশ্বাস।

Answer : Intense love is the theme of the poem. Sonnet 43 expresses the poet's intense love for her husband. So intense is her love for him, she says, that it rises to the spiritual level (lines 3 and 4). She loves him freely, without coercion; she loves him purely, without expectation of personal gain. Moreover, she expects to continue to love him after death.

70 Write down the theme of the following poem (Not more than 50 words).

The trees are in their autumn beauty,
The woodland paths are dry,
Under the October twilight the water

Minors a still sky;
Upon the brimming water among the stones
Are nine-and-fifty swans.

The nineteenth autumn has come upon me
Since I first made my count;
I saw before I had well finished,
All suddenly mount
And scatter wheeling in great broken rings
Upon their clamorous wings.
I have looked upon those brilliant creatures,
And now my heart is sore.
All's changed since I, hearing at twilight,
The first time on this shore,
The bell-beat of their wings above my head,
Trod with a lighter tread.

The Wild Swans at Coole
by W.B. Yeats

Answer : The poem presents the agony of human aging. The poet shows the difference between the growing age of the poet and the lasting youth of the swans. He visited the place nineteen years ago, when he was as joyous as these swans are. Now he is largely old but the birds are as young as before.

71 Write down the theme of the following poem (Not more than 50 words).

Breathes there the man with soul so dead,
Who never to himself hath said,
'This is my own, my native land!'
Whose heart hath ne'er within him burn'd.
As home his footsteps he hath turn'd
From wandering on a foreign strand?
If such there breathe, go, mark him well;
For him no Minstrel raptures swell;
High though his titles, proud his name,
Boundless his wealth as wish can claim;
Despite those titles, power and pelf,
The wretch, concentrated all in self,
Living, shall forfeit fair renown,
And, doubly dying, shall go down
To the vile dust from whence he sprung,
Unwept, unhonour'd, and unsung.

Breathes there the man
by Sir Walter Scott

Answer : The poem directly focuses on the theme of patriotism. The speaker reminds all that there can neither be a person whose heart cannot but spring up when he/ she returns home after being away from his/her country. He also reminds that people without patriotism die not only physically but also from the memory of his/ her countrymen.

72 Write down the theme of the following poem (Not more than 50 words).

Two roads diverged in a yellow wood,
And sorry I could not travel both
And be one traveler, long I stood
And looked down one as far as I could
To where it bent in the undergrowth;

Then took the other; as just as fair
And having perhaps the better claim,
Because it was grassy and wanted wear;
Though as for that the passing there
Had worn them really about the same,

And both that morning equally lay
In leaves no step had trodden black.
Oh, I kept the first for another day!
Yet knowing known way leads on to way,
I doubted if I should ever come back.

I shall be telling this with a sigh
Somewhere ages and ages hence :

Biography: see appreciation no 08.

Key words: dry- শুকনা; stone- পাথর; swan- রাজহাঁস;
suddenly- হঠাৎ; scatter- ছড়ানো- ছিটানো; clamorous- উচ্চ
শব্দ তৈরি করা; wing- ডানা।

Biography: Sir Walter Scott (15 August 1771 – 21 September 1832) was a Scottish historical novelist, playwright and poet. Many of his works remain classics of both English-language literature and of Scottish literature. Famous titles include *Ivanhoe*, *Rob Roy*, *Old Mortality*, *The Lady of the Lake*, *Waverley*, *The Heart of Midlothian* and *The Bride of Lammermoor*.

Key words: native land- মাতৃভূমি; burn- পোড়া; foreign- বিদেশি;
strand- সমুদ্রস্রা নদীর বালুময় তীর; rapture- মগ্নতা; swell- ফুলে ওঠা;
proud- গর্বিত; vile- বীভৎস।

Biography: see appreciation no 16.

Key words: diverge- নির্দিষ্ট কেন্দ্র থেকে বিভিন্ন দিকে ছড়িয়ে পড়া; traveler- ভ্রমণকারী;
bent- ইচ্ছা, দক্ষতা; grassy- তৃণাচ্ছাদিত; doubt- সন্দেহ।

Two diverged in a wood and – I
Took the one less traveled by,
And that has made all the difference.

The Road Not Taken

by Robert Frost

Answer : The speaker comes upon a fork in the road while walking through a yellow wood. There are two paths equally well-traveled and appealing. After choosing one of the roads, the narrator understands that the road he has chosen has been traveled by fewer people. So he ends on a nostalgic note that what different things would have been if he had chosen the other path.

73 Write down the theme of the following poem (Not more than 50 words).

What is our life? A play of passion,
Our mirth the music of division,
Our mother's wombs the tiring-houses be,
Where we are dressed for this short comedy.
Heaven the judicious sharp spectator is,
That sits and marks still who doth act amiss.
Our graves that hide us from the setting sun
Are like drawn curtains when the play is done.
Thus march we, playing, to our latest rest,
Only we die in earnest, that's no jest.

Biography: Sir Walter Raleigh was born in 1554. He was a writer, poet, politician, soldier and spy. He is well known for popularising tobacco in England. In 1594, Raleigh heard of a "City of Gold" in South America and sailed to find it, publishing an exaggerated account of his experiences in a book that contributed to the legend of "El Dorado". He died in 29 October 1618.

Key words: passion- আবেগ; mirth- আমোদ-আহল্লাস; womb- গর্ভ; sharp- তীক্ষ্ণ; spectator- দর্শনাধী; grave- কবর; curtain- পর্দা।

What is our life? A play of passion

by Sir Walter Raleigh

Answer : This is a beautiful poem carrying the themes like 'play or theatre', 'monotony of life', 'life and death', 'phases of life'. According to the poet, our life is a play of passion and a short comedy. The end of the play represents man's death. Drawing the curtain symbolizes man's death.

74 Following is the 1st part of the poem "To Autumn" of John Keats. Write the theme of the poem after your reading (Not more than 50 words).

SEASON of mists and mellow fruitfulness,
Close bosom-friend of the maturing sun;
Conspiring with him how to load and bless
With fruit the vines that round the thatch-eves run;
To bend with apples the mossed cottage-trees,
And fill all fruit with ripeness to the core;
To swell the gourd, and plump the hazel shells
With a sweet kernel : to set budding more,
And still more, later flowers for the bees,
Until they think warm days will never cease,
For summer has over-brimmed their clammy cells.

Biography: see appreciation no. 60

Key words: mist- কুয়াশা; mellow- রসালো; bosom-friend- অন্তরঙ্গ বন্ধু; maturing- বড় হয়ে উঠছে এমন; conspire- ষড়যন্ত্র করা; thatch- শূকনো খড়; mossed- শেওলায় ঢাকা; gourd- লাউ; clammy- স্যাঁতসেঁতে।

To Autumn

by John Keats

Answer : In this poem, the speaker addresses autumn as if it were a person. Here, he notes that autumn and the sun are like best friends. So, the theme of this poem is that it is a "nature poem". "To Autumn" by John Keats contains very specific natural landscapes and images.

75 Write down the theme of the following poem (Not more than 50 words).

Day after day, day after day,
We stuck, nor breath nor motion;
As idle as a painted ship,
Upon a Painted ocean.

Biography: see appreciation no. 51

Key words: stuck- আটকে পড়া; breath- শ্বাস-প্ৰশ্বাস; motion- গতি; board- পাটাতন; shrink- সংকুচিত হওয়া।

Water, water, everywhere,
And all the boards did shrink;
Water, water, everywhere,
Nor any drop to drink.

The Rime of the Ancient Mariner

by S.T. Coleridge

Answer : The lines indicate that the speaker is on ship and the ship is stuck in a ocean for several days. They are almost dying of thirst but tragedy is that having limitless water around them they cannot even drink a drop of water.

76 Write down the theme of the following poem (Not more than 50 words).

Turning and turning in the widening gyre
The falcon cannot hear the falconer;
Things fall apart; the centre cannot hold;
Mere anarchy is loosed upon the world,

Biography : see appreciation no. 08

Key Words: gyre- ঘূর্ণন; falcon- বাজপাখি; falconer- যে ব্রহ্মি বাজ পাখি পোষে; anarchy- অরাজকতা; conviction- বিশ্বাস বা প্ৰত্যয়।

The blood-dimmed tide is loosed, and everywhere
The ceremony of innocence is drowned;
The best lack all conviction, while the worst
Are full of passionate intensity.

The Second Coming
by WB Yeats

Answer : The themes of the above lines are: God vs evil, society and class, chaos and confusions. According to the poet, the fixed point, the central belief or idea, around which our civilization (like a falcon) had revolved (i.e. Christianity) has lost its power, it can no longer hold society in an orderly structure. Instead, things are flying away, falling apart; our civilization is disintegrating.

77 Write down the theme of the following poem (Not more than 50 words).

Over hill, over dale,
Thorough bush, thorough brier!
Over park, over pale.
Thorough flood, thorough fire!
I do wander everywhere,
Swifter than the moon's sphere :

And I serve the Fairy Queen,
To dew her orbs upon the green :
The cowslips tall her pensioners be;
In their gold coats spots you see;
Those be rubies, fairy favours;
In those freckles live their savours;
I must go seek some dewdrops here,
And hang a pearl in every cowslip's ear.

A Fairy Song
By William Shakespeare

Answer : This poem tells us of the activities of an imaginary fairy. She flies through hills, dales, bushes and wild roses. She can go wherever she likes. She serves the queen of all fairies. She drops dews on the spots of flowers and hangs a pearl in each of them.

78 Write down the theme of the following poem (Not more than 50 words).

"We squander health
In search of wealth,
We scheme and toil and save
Then squander wealth
In search of health,
And all we get is a grave
We live and boast of what we own,
We die and only get a stone."

Answer : The theme of the poem is running after wealth of human being. Human beings run after wealth squandering their health. But what they get at last is nothing but a stone in their grave.

Biography : see appreciation no. 03

Key Words: dale- উপত্যকা; bush- ঝোপ; brier- বন্য গোলাপ; pale- বেড়ার খুঁটি; sphere- বলয়; cowslip- এক ধরনের ফুল; ruby- বিশেষ ধরনের রত্ন; freckle- দাগ; savour- স্বাদ বা গন্ধ ।

Key Words: strange- অদ্ভুত; run after- কিছু পিছু দৌড়ানো; recover- উদ্ধার করা; savings- সঞ্চয়; grave- কবর; shelter- আশ্রয়; tombstone- সমাধিপুস্তক ।

Appreciating Short Story (Non-textual)

79 Write down the theme of the following story (Not more than 50 words).

[CtgB- '17]

There were two brothers in a village. One was Karim by name and the other was Bashir. Karim was elder brother of Bashir. They began to grow up gradually. Suddenly their father died. They feel in problem to some extent. Karim was cleverer than Bashir. The younger was very simple and honest. Karim always made his brother difficult work and himself did not do any work. They had two things. One was a cow and the other was a palm tree. One day the two brothers divided their properties. Karim took the back part of the cow and gave the front to his brother. In the same way, Karim himself took the top of the palm tree and gave the bottom to his brother. Karim began to enjoy the benefit of the properties. But Bashir was deprived of getting any advantage. Karim began to drink milk and juice of the palm tree. One day a clever man in the village, advised Bashir to cut down the palm tree of his own portion and stopped feeding the cow. Then the problem was solved.

Key words: gradually- ক্রমান্বয়ে; suddenly- হঠাৎ; to some extent- কিছু অংশে; divide- ভাগ করা; property- সম্পত্তি; advantage- সুবিধা; feed- খাওয়ানো ।

Answer: The theme of the story is that if someone tries to deceive others, ultimately he himself falls in trouble. Karim, in this story, befools his brother by taking the back part of the cow and top of the palm tree. But at last, he himself falls in trouble.

80 Write down the theme of the following story (Not more than 50 words).

Rokeya is a Bangladeshi girl. She is ten years old. She is beautiful like a rose. She might spread her beauty if she were educated. Instead of going to school, she has to sell flowers in the streets of Dhaka. She repeatedly requests the passers-by to buy flowers. Whenever I go to my college, I see her selling flowers. Sometimes I buy flowers from her. Sometimes I overlook her. One day I asked her, "Where do you live? Why do you do this? Why don't you go to school?"

What came out was quite pathetic. The girl replied that she lived in a slum. Her father left her mother and married another woman. She did not even know where he lived. But he often came to her mother and claimed money from her. She has one little sister. At present her mother works as a maid. I asked her, "What's your dream? Do you have any dream?" Yes, she has a dream. She has dreams like everybody else. But her dreams are not very lofty. Her simple dream is to go to school. She wants to study. After completing her studies, she likes to take a small job. She wants to make her mother and younger sister happy. And this is a very simple dream of a little girl.

Key words: street- রাস্তা, সড়ক; repeatedly- বার বার; overlook- উপেক্ষা করা; pathetic- মর্মান্তিক; slum- বস্তি; lofty- মহান, মর্যাদাসম্পন্ন।

Answer : There are many women who are abandoned by the husband. Such abandonment makes the life of the son or daughter very difficult. Children of this family have to earn for livelihood. They go through sufferings. They cannot have education, they only dream to live a simple life.

81 Write down the theme of the following story (Not more than 50 words).

Reza is a qualified farmer in Chandpur. Mr. Reza was very brilliant as a student. He took his graduation from Bangladesh Agricultural University in Mymensingh. After completing his higher education, Reza came back home and started advanced farming. He has two other brothers who are graduates in different areas. The specialty of the Reza family is that they are living in their village and all have fame in their own fields. His younger brother, who is a Rajshahi University graduate, is a science teacher in a local school. His youngest brother is a social science graduate and he too would like to start a local NGO to work for this area. When asked "What makes you decide to stay here in this village?," Mr. Reza smiled. He said, "Look, it's true that we could leave this village for a city life. I could be an officer or my brother could be a bureaucrat. But it didn't attract us. We are sons of the soil. Yes, we have education but does education prepare a person only to be an officer? Don't we have any obligation to the soil that has made us what we are? He also added that every educated individual shouldn't be a job seeker. He continued that since his discipline was agriculture, after his education he took the occupation of a farmer. In response to the question whether they have any frustration to live in a village, he confirmed that they were very pleased with their life. He said, "I work in my own farm, stay with my family members, pass time with my old friends and sleep at my own home. All these count a lot." Mr. Reza is right. Many people go to the cities and forget or loosen their roots knowingly or unknowingly. Mr. Reza and his brothers are great-they never forget their roots. They not only stuck to their own roots, they have been torch bearers for others to be respectful of their own roots.

Key words: qualified- যোগ্যতাসম্পন্ন; advanced farming- উন্নত চাষাবাদ; speciality- বিশেষত্ব; bureaucrat- সরকারি কর্মকর্তা; attract- আকর্ষণ করা; obligation- বদ্ধ বাধকতা; individual- ব্যক্তি; torch bearer- আলোক বর্তিকা।

Answer : Being highly educated, we forget our village home. But it is a mistake. We should go to our own villages and work there. We can develop our villages and be happy there. We should be torch bearers for others. It will bring respect and happiness.

82 Write down the theme of the following story (Not more than 50 words).

There lived a shepherd boy in a certain village. He used to graze a flock of sheep near a forest. It was not very far from his village. Besides his usual duty, he sang and played on flute. But the boy had a bad habit. He used to tell a lie to make fun with people. He often cried out, "Wolf! Wolf!" The kind-hearted villagers heard his cry and rushed to the spot with sticks to save the cowboy. But when they came near, they found no wolf and the cowboy laughed at them. After a few days, the boy made the same fun. The villagers again ran to the field but they found no wolf and the boy laughed at them. The villagers became very angry and advised the boy not to make that kind of fun in future. But one day a wolf really came and it started to kill the sheep one by one. The shepherd boy was frightened and started shouting. "Wolf! Wolf! Help!" But none came to help him though the villagers heard him. They thought that the boy was again making fun to them. The wolf killed a number of his sheep and then killed the shepherd boy. So we should never make fun by telling lies.

Key words: shepherd- রাখাল; certain- নির্দিষ্ট; graze- (গবাদি পশু) চড়ানো; flock of sheep- ভেড়ার পাল; habit- অভ্যাস; advise- উপদেশ দেওয়া; shout- চিৎকার করা।

Answer : Telling lies can bring about disaster for the liar. If you tell a lie once and again, people will take it as your fun. So when you are really in danger, nobody will come to help you thinking that you are making fun. You should remember that nobody believes a liar.

83 Write down the theme of the following story (Not more than 50 words).

The Hare And The Tortoise

"Why do you move along so slowly?" said a hare to a tortoise, "Let me show you how to get over the ground."

"You think I am slow, do you?" replied the tortoise, "Let us run a race to the cross-roads. I think I can beat you."

"Do you hear that?" said the hare to a fox, who was standing near.

"Could anyone even think that such a slow-coach coach could beat me in a race?"

"It would be a good joke if he did," said the fox, "Do you wish to run a race?"

"I will be the judge, if you care to have me."

"That suits me well," answered the hare.

"I am willing," said the tortoise.

So the fox marked off a place for starting, and set up a stake at the goal.

The hare and the tortoise stood side by side, and at the command. "Go!", from the fox, they began the race.

The hare bounded along and was very soon far ahead of the tortoise. He called back to the fox, "I think I shall take a little nap before I finish the race; the tortoise will not reach here for an hour or more." So he lay down in some bushes and went to sleep.

Every minute brought the tortoise a little nearer to the goal. He did not stop for a second.

At last he passed the hare, but the hare still slept. On and on the plodded; it was a long way, but he had no thought of stopping.

He came nearer and nearer the goal. At last his foot touched the stake.

The hare awakened, stretched himself, and leaped toward the goal.

"What, you here!" he cried when he saw the tortoise, "How did you ever reach here?"

"Just by keeping at it," said the tortoise.

Key words: beat- পরাজিত করা; joke- কৌতুক; stake- সীমানা নির্ধারণের লাঠি; race- দৌড় প্রতিযোগিতা; goal- লক্ষ্য।

Answer : The powerful always pride themselves on their power. But pride has its fall. If the weak work together, they can defeat the powerful. Similarly, if any one works slow but steady, he is sure to win. Working by fits and start, no one can succeed.

84 Write down the theme of the following story (Not more than 50 words).

It was a sunny day, but the climate was enjoyable. Everyone in the railway station was waiting for the train to arrive. Among the crowd there was a group of friends, youngsters who were on board for vacation.

It was a busy station with juice shop, mobile restaurants! Coffee and tea stalls, newspaper shop etc. The announcement regarding the arrival of the train was made and everyone prepared to get into the train to their appropriate places.

The group of friends made loud noise to welcome the train as it entered the station. They ran to get their reserved seats before anyone could get into the train.

The empty seats were filled and the train whistled to move. An old man with a young boy aged around 15 years came running to catch the train. They entered the train and the train started to move. They had their seats just adjacent to the friends' group.

The young boy was so surprised to see everything.

He exclaimed at his father, "Dad the train is moving and the things are moving backwards." His father smiled and nodded his head. As the train started moving fast the young boy again screamed, "Dad the trees are green in colour and run backward very fast". His father said "Yes, dear" and smiled. Just like a kid, he was watching everything with great enthusiasm and happiness loaded with tons of surprises.

A fruit seller passed selling apples and oranges. The young boy asked his dad, "I want to eat apples." His father bought him apples. He said. "Oh" apple looks so sweet than it tastes. I love this colour." The group was watching all the activities of this boy and asked the boy's father, "Is your son having any problem? Why is he behaving very differently?"

A friend from the group made fun of him and shouted, "His son is mad, I think."

The father of the young boy, with patience, replied to the friend group.

'My son was born blind. Only a few days before he was operated and got the vision. He is seeing various things in his life the first time.'

The young friends became very quiet and apologized to his father and son.

Key words: sunny- রৌদ্রময়; climate- জলবায়ু; vacation- ছুটি; announcement- ঘোষণা; appropriate- সঠিক; loud noise- উচ্চ শব্দ; reserved- সংরক্ষিত; enthusiasm- উৎসাহ, উদ্দীপনা।

Answer : If you make any comment without knowing the background, you can be proved foolish. Your foolish comments may hurt others concerned. Even in some cases, you may have to pay for it. Such an incident happened to a group of friends. So, while making comment, we should be cautious.

85 Write down the theme of the following story (Not more than 50 words).

Once there was a selfish giant who had a large and beautiful garden. The garden was full of soft green grass. Here and there all over the grass stood many colorful flowers like stars. The garden was a nice playground for the beautiful children. The children used to go there, but one day the Giant returned from the Cornwall and he didn't allow children to play and built a wall. Now the children had nowhere to play and they wanted to return into the garden. The spring came, but in the Giant's garden it was still the winter and it began the house of the Snow and the Frost, who they invited also the Hail and the North Wind because the Giant was too selfish.

The Giant one morning heard a linnet singing and he thought what that the spring was coming

because the children had in the garden. The trees was covered with flowers and birds were flying. Only in a corner there was the snow because a little child couldn't climb up a tree.

So the Giant helped the child and he put him on the top of the tree because he understood his selfishness. Everyday the children went to play there but no one saw the little child and the Giant was sad because he loved him. The Giant grew old and one winter day the Giant found the child in a corner with a tree covered of blossoms. The child had many wounds and the Giant understood that the child was Jesus and took the Giant to Paradise.

Key words: selfish- স্বার্থপর; giant- দৈত্য; playground- খেলার মাঠ; invite- আমন্ত্রণ জানানো; wound- ত; paradise- স্বর্গ।

Answer : Some people are very selfish and they do not help others. Such selfishness brings adversity for them. God himself does not like selfishness. If you help others, God will give you something better in return.

86 Write down the theme of the following story (Not more than 50 words).

Bayazid was a small boy. His mother was ill. One day he was studying by the side of the bed of his ailing mother. All on a sudden his mother woke up, raised her head and told her son to give her a glass of water. The boy Bayazid took the glass to pour water from the pitcher. But the pitcher was empty. There was not a single drop of water in the house.

Bayazid could remember a stream from where he could bring water. But it was far from his house and was in one corner of the village. The night was quite dark. Bayazid took the pitcher and went to fetch water from the stream. When he returned with water, he found his mother in deep sleep. Bayazid thought that if he made his mother awaken, she might feel disturbed. So, he decided to stand beside his mother's bed with the glass of water. When she woke up, he would serve her with the water.

The whole night passed. Bayazid's mother opened eyes at morning and saw her son standing with a glass of water. Seeing that, her eyes became full of tears. She took him in her arms with motherly affection and blessed him from the core of her heart. Her blessings made him a great saint later.

Key words: ailing- অসুস্থ; pitcher- কলস; empty- খালি, শূন্য; fetch- আনা; tear- অশ্রু; arm- বাহু, কোল; affection- প্রেম; bless- আশীর্বাদ করা।

Answer : The theme of the above story is devotion to mother. We should leave no stone unturned to fulfill our mother's need. We should keep in mind that blessing of mother can bring us success. Bayazid fetched water from remote place and stood all night beside his sleeping mother. The blessing of his mother made him a great saint.

87 Write down the theme of the following story (Not more than 50 words).

Sir Isaac Newton used to be deeply occupied with study of the difficult problems. He used to be forgetful about the daily necessities of his life. On one occasion he was very much engaged with some problems. He was in his laboratory at that time. He felt hungry and wanted to eat something. He called his maid servant and told her to bring an egg.

After a while the maid came back with an egg and wanted to know what to do. He was then absorbed in a deep experiment and gesticulated her to keep the egg on the table. The servant kept the egg there and went. Then Newton again became busy with his work.

Suddenly it appeared in his mind that he should eat the egg. For this he fired the burner and put a pot of water on it to boil the egg. When the water started boiling he wanted to put the egg into the pot. But he put his watch into the boiling water instead of egg forgetfully. He again returned to experiment and when his conscience returned he found his watch in the pot still boiling. This is one of the best examples of attention of the great men like Newton. And this is the key point for their great achievement.

Key words: deeply- গভীরভাবে; forgetful- ভুলে মন; engage- নিয়োজিত থাকা; laboratory- গবেষণাগার; absorb- নিমগ্ন থাকা; experiment- গবেষণা, পরীক্ষা; conscience- চেতনা; attention- মনোযোগ।

Answer : The theme of the story is devotion to study. All the great people of the earth achieved success due to their devotion to work. Newton, the great scientist was not an exception to this. Whenever he was absorbed in his research work, he remained devoted to that.

88 Write down the theme of the following story (Not more than 50 words).

Once a crocodile wanted her ten children to be educated. So she went to a fox and asked him to educate her children. The fox willingly agreed to teach the crocodile's children.

So the crocodile left all her children with the fox and went back to the river. The fox liked to eat crocodiles. So he ate one of them and kept others nine. After some days, the crocodile came to see her children. Then the cunning fox showed her the nine kids and showed one of them twice. The foolish crocodile thought that she saw all ten of her children and went away.

After some days, the fox ate another baby crocodile. When the mother crocodile again came to see her children, the fox showed her eight crocodiles and showed one of them twice. The mother thought that she had seen all her ten of children and she went away happily.

At last when the mother crocodile came, the fox showed her the only one baby left ten times. The

crocodile could not understand the trick. But when the crocodile came again after some days the fox was not able to show any of the babies because he had already eaten up the last one. The crocodile could understand the cunning trick of the fox. She got furious, jumped on the fox and ate him up.

Key words: willingly- স্বেচ্ছাপ্রণোদিতভাবে; agree- রাজি হওয়া; cunning- ধূর্ত; able- স্ম; trick- চালাকি; furious- ক্রোধান্বিত।

Answer : The theme of the story is that one cannot enjoy happiness destroying others' peace. He has to face justice by any means. The same thing happened to the fox. He ate up all the babies of the crocodile but finally turned into food of the crocodile.

89 Write down the theme of the following story (Not more than 50 words).

Zaman and Mintu are two friends, living near a deep forest. One day they decided to see elephant. So they went into the forest. As they were talking, walking, gossiping and discussing about the biggest animal of the world, it made them curious.

At the time of their gossiping and walking into the forest they saw many animals but did not see any elephant. Walking a few minutes suddenly they saw a lion and they got frightened and hid beside a big tree. And so they saved them from the ferociousness of the lion. Now they were discussing each other about the fear and made some tricks how to face upcoming problem. However, they were able to save themselves and started to walk again. But they walked, walked and walked through the forest, could not find any elephant. They became hopeless but God granted their hope. At the time of their walking suddenly they heard the high sound of leg on the earth. Firstly, they did not understand what it was and then they understood that it was nothing but an elephant.

As they knew the elephant textually but not practically, their joys knew no bounds. So they started to walk toward the elephant and became very curious. But, as soon as they were about to the elephant it tried to attack them. So they ran very fast and saved themselves again from the ferociousness of the biggest animal of the world.

Key words: gossip- গথ করা; curious- কৌতূহলি; frighten- ভীত; ferociousness- হিংস্রতা; discuss- আলোচনা করা; practically- বাস্তবসম্মতভাবে; know no bound- সীমাহীন।

Answer : The theme of the story is curiosity and its effect. Curiosity helps to know many things. But out of curiosity we should not do any unwise deed. Any unwise deed may bring about disaster. We should remember that curiosity along with cautiousness can bring success.

90 Write down the theme of the following story (Not more than 50 words).

In a small village once a scholar was crossing a river on a boat. The weather was very pleasing. The river was very cool and calm. The scholar was enjoying a lot. The boatman was a simple illiterate man. His bookish knowledge was nil.

The scholar started talking to him when he was sailing the boat. The scholar asked the boatman whether he had read the Gita and whether he could explain the verse of the Gita. The boatman replied that he had heard about that but had not read that. The scholar then said that he had wasted one fourth of his life. The scholar again said "But tell me have you read the Arthashastra?" Again the boatman showed his ignorance. The scholar then undervalued the boatman and arrogantly said, "Then my friend, you have wasted two-fourths of your life." It was about to dark as the sun was going to set.

Noticing the sun the scholar again asked the boatman if he knew the reason behind the sun rise and sun set. Being helpless the boatman again expressed his ignorance. The scholar haughtily said "Then my friend, you have wasted three-fourths of your life."

After sometime suddenly a thick cloud covered the sky and a storm rose from the river bed. Being anxious the boatman asked the scholar "Sir, do you know swimming?" "No I don't know how to swim" the scholar answered with anxiety. The boatman said with a sigh of relief "Then my friend I see your whole life is going to be wasted and meaningless."

Key words: scholar- পণ্ডিত; illiterate- মূর্খ, নিরূপ; bookish knowledge- পুঁথিগত বিদ্যা; nil- শূন্য; explain- ব্রূজ্ঞা করা; arrogantly- উদ্ভতভাবে; waste- নষ্ট করা; express- প্রকাশ করা।

Answer : Some people acquire only bookish knowledge and ignore practical knowledge. Even, they are proud of their bookish knowledge. But, as a matter of fact, we should gain practical knowledge. It is clear that the practical knowledge works better than the bookish knowledge in critical situation.

91 Write down the theme of the following story (Not more than 50 words).

Once a farmer had a donkey. He thought himself to be very clever. He used to carry heavy load of his master alone to a market which was on the other side of river. One morning when the donkey reached the river. He decided to make his journey short by wading across the water.

But at one stage he reached a very deep spot. He had to swim to cross the river. Fortunately, he was carrying sacks of salt on that day. So, a large portion of the salt diluted in the water. As a result the

load became light and he could easily cross the river. He felt very proud of himself. He decided that next time onwards he would follow the same way.

But the donkey did not know that the next day he was carrying a load of sponger. When he reached the river, he started wading through the river. But this time the load became so heavy soaking water that the donkey drowned. Though he thought himself clever, really he is foolish. And for his foolishness, he died.

Key words: clever- চতুর, চালাক; load- বোঝা; wade- (পানি, কাদা ইত্যাদির মধ্যে দিয়ে) অতি কষ্টে চলা; portion- অংশ; dilute- পানিতে গুলিয়ে যাওয়া; sack- বস্তা; soak- কোনো কিছু শুষে নেওয়া।

Answer : Many people prefer short cut means to gain success. By taking short cut means they think themselves to be clever. In fact, they are foolish because short cut means sometimes may cause disaster. Even following short cut means may lead them to death. So happened to the donkey.

92 Write down the theme of the following story (Not more than 50 words).

There was a king in a country. He was fond of knowing about his future from the astrologers. One day an intelligent astrologer came to his country. Hearing about him the king called on him. The king asked, "I heard you can see future. Is it true?" "Is there anyone who can, your majesty?" replied the astrologer, "I only make some predictions, future is in Almighty's hand. But, you should take care your highness lest you should be in trouble within this year." The king returned to his palace. He was very much worried. What trouble is ensuing? What did the astrologer saw in his fate? The king became more and more worried. Nothing pleased him anymore. He gave up going to the court. At the top of one of his towers he confined himself. He looked out one of the windows sitting on a chair. He forgot everything.

Days passed into weeks, weeks passed into months. The whole kingdom went astray. The neighbour kings took hold of good parts of his kingdom. The palace was in ruin. The peasants were fleeing. His reign fell down.

Then a year was over. The king came down of his tower. He went to the astrologer again. "You were right, O wise sage! I believe you." said the king. "You fool, you listened to the last part of my words but didn't care to remember the previous part," said the astrologer, "It's your belief that has caused your ruin."

Key words: astrologer- জ্যোতিষী; intelligent- বুদ্ধিমান; prediction- ভবিষ্যৎসঙ্গী; go astray- উচ্ছিন্নে যাওয়া; flee- পলায়ন করা; previous- পূর্ববর্তী।

Answer : Many people in fate. But you can change your fate if you work hard. If you think that God predetermines your fate and you, stay idle believe your disaster is a must. Not the fate, but the hard work can change your fate. Remember that God helps those who help themselves.

93 Write down the theme of the following story (Not more than 50 words).

There lived a wolf in a wood. He killed a lamb, but as he went on eating the flesh, a bone stuck in his throat. This gave him pain and he went about not knowing what to do.

He was howling on in agony. While moving here and there, suddenly he saw a crane at a distance. He asked the crane toward him and requested it to help him in his great trouble. The wolf lured the crane that it would give lot of rewards.

The greedy crane immediately agreed. It put its long beak into the wolf's throat and removed the piece of bone. The wolf was relieved of his pain. Then the crane asked for the rewards.

The wolf laughed at the crane and said, "Why? you have already had sufficient rewards in having been permitted to draw out your beak and head in safety from the mouth and jaws of a wolf." "So I have already rewarded you without biting your head. Run away from here, else I will kill you". The crane was very much disappointed and ran a way to save its life.

Key words: stuck- আটকে গিয়েছিল; bone- হাড়; throat- গলা; agony- যন্ত্রণা; lure- পুলা করা; reward- পুরস্কার; sufficient- পর্যাপ্ত ; disappoint- হতাশ।

Answer : We should think twice before going to help any ungrateful person. Taking the help from you, an ungrateful person can harm you. We should remember that the character of the ungrateful never changes. They always think about their benefit in every situation.

94 Write down the theme of the following story (Not more than 50 words).

Once there was a king in Yemen. He was very powerful, wealthy and magnificent. He was renowned for his charitable and generous activities. He tried his best to love the countrymen. But people of the country were great admirer of Hatemtai, a benevolent young man in his country.

One day the king invited the rich and honourable persons of the country in a feast. The honourable persons went to the feast. They were served delicious dishes and valuable gifts. People started praising the king. At that time, a man started to praise Hatemtai. Hearing it, the king became more furious and sent an assassin to kill Hatemtai.

The assassin could not know Hatemtai. He roamed in search of Hatemtai all day long. At evening, he took shelter in a young man's house. The man was so modest, honest, flexible and great. His

kindness attracted the heart of the assassin. Hatemtai gave him rich food and excused pardon with modesty for his wrong.

Observing his great behaviour the assassin told Hatemtai the reason for his coming there. Hatemtai then told the man that he himself is his expected man. He requested him to kill him to fulfill his desire to take the valuable reward from the king.

The assassin became puzzled with the greatness of Hatemtai. He went to the king and told him the story from top to toe.

The king felt ashamed. He became overwhelmed with surprise. He bowed down his head when he realized that Hatemtai was not an ordinary man but truly a generous man. He became fond of Hatemtai.

Key words: magnificent- জাঁকজমকপূর্ণ; renowned- প্ৰসিদ্ধ; charitable- পরহিতকর; generous- উদার; admirer- প্রশংসাকারী; benevolent- উপকারী; furious- ক্রোধ; assassin- গুণ্ডাঘাতক।

Answer : People having greatness of heart are honoured today or tomorrow; here or hereafter. They can face trouble for the time being. Others may incline to harm them. But if they are not frightened and can prove their greatness of heart in deadly situation, the envious people can realize their fault and they can also turn great.

95 Write down the theme of the following story (Not more than 50 words).

There lived a king in a country. He was very haughty and arrogant by nature. But he had a strong faith in palmistry. He enjoyed the expressions and speeches of the palmist in a luxurious way. He enjoyed their forecasting a lot.

One day one of his councillors came to him and said that a palmist had come to visit their country. He said that the palmist was a great scholar in palmistry and he could forecast exactly. The king told the councillor to invite the palmist. After having a luxurious dinner the palmist started to study the palms of the king's hands. After exercising the palms of the king he kept silent expressing nothing.

The king created pressure to express his fortune. Then the palmist said "My lord! It's a matter of regret that you will die soon." Hearing the message the king became too much furious. "You fool! You know nothing about palmistry." said the king. The king gave him imprisonment. He ordered the execution of the palmist. Before the execution the king again called the palmist. He told him, "You fool! Can you draw out the date of your death?"

The palmist designed a plan to rescue himself. The palmist told the king that he will die just before a week of the death of the king. Hearing this, the king became pale and drove out the palmist instead of killing.

Key words: haughty- অহঙ্কারী; arrogant- উদ্ধত; faith- বিশ্বাস; palmistry- হস্তরেখাবিদ্যা; regret- অনুতাপ; imprisonment- কারাদণ্ড; execution- মৃত্যুদণ্ড।

Answer : Many people believe in palmistry. But palmistry never works, your wit and works work better in your life. You should not depend on palmistry. Your wit and works will decide what will happen in your life. Your wit can free you from danger.

96 Write down the theme of the following story (Not more than 50 words).

Once there was a very powerful man in a city. He had everything under his disposal. He always boasted of his money and power. There lived another man in the same city who had neither power nor money, but what he had was immense love from the commoners who used to call him a Saint, a great lover of man. There began a rivalry between these two over a simple thing. The powerful man wanted to build a new palace in a very short time. He expressed his desire to his aider. One of them said, "Sir, you have money and power. So, don't worry." His associates started the work.

The saint on the other hand started digging a tank in order to mitigate the sufferings of the commoners for drinking water.

The palace builders soon realized that they were falling short of workers because of the saint's assignment. So they went to their master and informed him of the problem. The master said to them, "Well, go and say to the saint to stop his work for a few months."

The mercenaries went to the saint and told him of the advice of their master. The saint softly said to them, "Look gentlemen, here people are working to mitigate their own sufferings. If they agree to your proposal, you will have enough workforces to hire. It's not me, you go to the workers." So they went to the workers and tried all means to convince them but none of them seemed convinced.

"Well, we are going back to our master. He will surely teach you a good lesson."

"Perhaps, your master may not get enough time to teach us a lesson," said the saint on the back of the departing mercenaries.

However, when they told their master everything, his ego got so hurt that it created tremendous pressure on his nerves and he fell down dead due to heart failure. The mercenaries heard the echo of what the saint had said. They whispered among themselves.

Key words: disposal- নিয়ন্ত্রণ; boast- গর্ব করা; immense- বিশাল; desire- আকাঙ্ক্ষা; aider- সাহায্য করা; mitigate- উপশমিত করা; whisper- ফিসফিস করে বলা।

Answer : "Love is more powerful than money", this is the theme of the story. With money, we can be powerful and rule the people for the time being. But one day they will raise their voice. On the contrary, if you love the people, they will never stand against you. So love is more powerful than money.

97 Write down the theme of the following story (Not more than 50 words).

Once upon a time, there lived a king in a certain country. He had two sons and a daughter. When the king became old he decided to divide his kingdom among the children. But before giving their share, he wanted to know how much they loved him. So, one day, he called his three children to him and told them about his plan.

The eldest son praised his father highly and the old king became very happy. He passed the order to bring the map and marked one third of his state and gave it to the eldest son. Then the turn of the second son came, he also like his elder brother, altered some sweet words to share like his brother.

Now, the only daughter was left. The king loved her more dearly and expected that she should say something which would be more welcome to him. But unlike her brothers, she remained silent and did not utter any processing word. The old king was quite surprised and it was beyond his mind that his beloved daughter would behave so whom he liked very much. The old king became furious and gave his daughter a last warning that if she did not say anything, she would not get anything. But his warning did not work at all and the daughter became adamant not to say any false praising word like her two brothers and remained silent as before. Finally the old, furious king, misunderstood his daughter, who was really genuine and forfeited her from the rightful share of his kingdom.

Key words: divide- ভাগ করা; kingdom- রাজ্য; share- ভাগ করা; expect- আশা করা; utter- বলা, উচ্চারণ করা; adamant- দৃঢ়সংকল্প; forfeit- বঞ্চিত করা।

Answer : We often judge a person by his sweet words. But sweet words are often misleading. One can cheat you with sweet words. So we should not be flattered by sweet words, rather we should judge one by one's actions.

98 Write down the theme of the following story (Not more than 50 words).

Women are nowadays as important as men in society. They constitute nearly half of our total population. So there can be no denying the fact that they too possess equal rights and duties as men do. They have noble missions to fulfil as men. If they get opportunity, genius, powers and capacities will bloom fully. No nation can make real progress keeping half of its population in the dark. Without the upliftment of women, the progress of the nation is not possible at all. Again without education women cannot be elevated. So all out education should be imparted to the womenfolk so that they may come forward and work hand in hand with men in all development programmes.

Mother women play an important part in moulding the character of their children. There is a saying in English that the hands that rock the cradle rule the world. So every woman is a potential mother. The future of a child depends on how it is brought up and educated in childhood. Naturally an educated mother is expected to bring up and educate her children better than an uneducated mother.

Key words: constitute- গঠন/অধিকার করা; deny- অস্বীকার করা; mission- মিশন; possess- অধিকার করা; genius- প্রতিভা; capacity- সামর্থ্য; bloom- বিকশিত হওয়া; upliftment- উন্নয়ন; elevated- উন্নত; impart- দেওয়া; womenfolk- নারী জাতি; mould- গড়ে তোলা; cradle- দোলনা; potential- সম্ভাবনাময়।

Answer : The theme of the story is that for the development of a country women are as important as men. As women are the half of our total population, we cannot succeed as nation without making them involve in works. So, no doubt women are as important as men in society.

99 Write down the theme of the following story (Not more than 50 words).

A jobless man applied for the position of 'office boy' at a very big company.

The employer interviewed him, then a test : clean the floor.

"You are hired" - the employer said, "Give me your email address, and I'll send you the application to fill, as well as when you will start."

The man replied, "I don't have a computer, neither an email."

"I'm sorry," said the employer, "if you don't have an email, you cannot have this job."

The man left with no hope. He didn't know what to do, with only \$10 USD in his pocket. He then decided to go to the supermarket, bought 10 kg tomato crate, then sold tomatoes door to door. In less than two hours he succeeded and doubled his capital. He repeated the operation 3 times and returned home with \$60 USD. The man realized that he could survive by this way and started to go every day earlier and returned late. Thus, his money doubled or tripled everyday. Shortly later, he bought a cart, then a truck and then he had his own fleet of delivery vehicles.

Five years later, the man's company was one of the biggest food retailers. He started to plan his family's future, and decided to have a life insurance. He called an insurance broker and chose a protection plan. When the conversation was concluded, the broker asked him his email. The man replied, "I don't have an email. The broker replied curiously, "you don't have an email, and yet have succeeded to build an empire. Do you imagine what position you could have if you had an email?"

The man paused for a while and replied : "An office boy!"

Don't be discouraged if something is not in your favour today. Better opportunities are always waiting ahead.

Key words: jobless- পেশাহীন; employer- নিয়োগদাতা; interview- সাক্ষাৎকার নেওয়া; hire- ভাড়া করা; retailer- খুচরা বিক্রেতা; broker- দালাল; protection- রক্ষা/সংরক্ষণ; conversation- কথাবার্তা।

Answer : The theme of the story is "Self help is the best help." One should not rely on others rather ones should try to be self-dependent. We should not be worried if things are not going in our favour because bad time indicates the advent of good time.

100 Write down the theme of the following story (Not more than 50 words).

A jackdaw was so proud of his fine coat of black feathers that he thought himself too grand to live among the other jackdaws. He picked up a number of beautiful feathers that had fallen from a peacock's tail, and carefully adorned himself with them. Then this vain jackdaw walked boldly up to a family of peacocks, as though he were one of them. The peacocks soon found out that he was only a jackdaw, so they quickly set upon him and drove him away. Then the jackdaw returned to his own friends, but they were so offended with him that they refused to have anything more to do with him.

Key words: jackdaw- দাঁড়কাক; proud- গর্বিত; grand- মহিমাযুক্ত; adorn- সাজানো; offended- অসন্তুষ্ট; refuse- অস্বীকার করা।

Answer : It's foolish to try and be what you are not. The jackdaw of the story shows its extreme foolishness adorning itself with the feathers of peacock. This indicates that we should not try to imitate others. Rather we should be happy about what we are.

101 Write down the theme of the following story (Not more than 50 words).

Once there lived a good king in Scotland. His name was Robert Bruce. He loved his country and his subjects very dearly. His subjects had a great love and respect for him. One day his enemies attacked his country and drove him away from his kingdom. Bruce fought his enemies again and again. But he was defeated every time. He took shelter in a remote cave. He became sad for his condition. One day he was lying in the cave. Then he saw a spider trying hard to reach the ceiling of the cave. The spider failed again and again to succeed. But it did not give up hope. Bruce saw the spider climbing to the ceiling after some unsuccessful attempts. This dauntless spider inspired Bruce to shake off the darkness of despair. He gathered an army of strong man and attacked his enemies. The enemies were defeated and Bruce regained his kingdom.

Key words: desert- মরুভূমি; quantity- পরিমাণ; disagreed- অসম্মতি জানানো; slap- থাট্টা মারা; silence- নিরব; meagre- অধ; oasis- উষ্ণ প্রান্তরে মনোরম স্থান; rush- দ্রুত দৌড়ে যাওয়া।

Answer : The theme of the story is "Failure is the pillar of success". We should not be afraid of failure rather we should work harder to achieve success.

102 Write down the theme of the following story (Not more than 50 words).

Long ago, a young man who lived in a village, found his life full of problems and sufferings. Quarrels, ill feelings, jealousy, enmity- all were part of everyday life there. So he left his house and went to a jungle to live by himself. There he made a nice little hut with wood, bamboo and reeds. "Ah! How happy I am here!" said the man to himself.

But one day he found some mice in his hut. The little creature soon made holes in his blanket. So, he brought a cat to kill the mice. The cat needed milk. So he brought a cow. The cow needed grass and hay. So, he brought a cowboy.

The cowboy needed food. So, he took a wife to cook meals. Then children were born to them, and the man found himself again in a family.

Key words: suffering- ভোগান্তি; quarrels- ঝগড়া/বিবাদ; jealousy- ঈর্ষা; enmity- শত্রুতা; reed- নলখাগড়া; cowboy- রাখাল; meals- খাবার; creature- জীব/প্ৰাণী।

Answer : The theme of passage is that man cannot live alone. All the elements of environment are inter-connected. So, one has to depend on others. Without the help of others man cannot think of leading a healthy and happy life.

103 Write down the theme of the following story (Not more than 50 words).

Jagadish Chandra Bose was born on 30 November, 1858 at Mymensingh, now in Bangladesh. He was brought up in a home committed to pure Indian traditions and culture. He got his elementary education from a vernacular school, because his father thought that Bose should learn his own mother tongue. Bengali, before studying a foreign language like English. Bose attended Cambridge after studying physics at Calcutta University. He returned to India in 1884 after completing a B.Sc. degree from Cambridge University.

The central hall of the Royal Society in London was jam-packed with famous scientists on May 10, 1901. Everyone seemed to be curious to know how Bose's experiment will demonstrate that plants have feelings like other living beings and humans.

Bose authored two illustrious books; "Response in the Living and Non-living" (1902) and "The Nervous Mechanism of Plants" (1926). Prior to his death in 1937, Bose set up the Bose Institute at Calcutta. He was elected the Fellow of the Royal Society in 1920 for his amazing contributions and achievements.

Key words: tradition- ঐতিহ্য; elementary- প্রাথমিক; vernacular- স্বদেশীয়; curious- উৎসুক; demonstrate- প্রমাণ করা; jam-packed- পরিপূর্ণ; illustrious- প্রসিদ্ধ; amazing- বিস্ময়কর।

Answer : The demonstration of plants' having life and feelings by Jagadish Chandra Bose is the theme of the passage. He studied physics at Calcutta University and completed B.Sc. from Cambridge University. He illustrated the feelings of trees in his two books. He became the fellow of the Royal Society in London.