



### IMPORTANT STANZAS FOR COMPREHENSION

Read the stanzas given below and answer the questions that follow each:

1. A thing of beauty is a joy forever Its loveliness increases,  
it will never Pass into nothingness;  
but will keep A bower quiet for us, and a sleep  
Full of sweet dreams, and health, and quiet breathing.

Questions

- (a) Name the poem and the poet of these lines.
- (b) How is a thing of beauty a joy for ever ?
- (c) What do you understand by a 'bower'?
- (d) What kind of sleep does it provide?

Answers:

- (a) The poem is A Thing of Beauty. The poet is John Keats.
- (b) A thing of beauty is the source of constant joy. Its beauty goes on increasing. It will never pass into nothingness.
- (c) A bower is a pleasant place in the shade under a tree. It protects persons/animals from the hot rays of the sun.
- (d) It provides us a sound sleep, full of sweet dreams, health and peaceful breathing.

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

Questions [All India 2014]

- (a) Name the poem and the poet.
- (b) Why are we despondent?
- (c) What removes the pall from our dark spirits?
- (d) What are we doing every day?

Answers:

- (a) The poet is John Keats. The poem is A Thing of Beauty.
- (b) We possess the evil qualities of malice and disappointment. We suffer from the lack of noble qualities. That is why we feel despondent.
- (c) Some beautiful shapes or a thing of beauty removes the pall of sadness from our hearts or spirits.
- (d) We are weaving a flowery wreath to bind us to the beauties of the earth.

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

Questions

- (a) What removes the pall from our dark spirits?
- (b) What sprouts a shady boon for sheep and how?
- (c) How do 'daffodils' and 'rills' enrich the environment?
- (d) What makes the mid-forest brake rich?

Answers:

- (a) Some beautiful shape or a thing of beauty removes the pall of sadness from our hearts or spirits.
- (b) Old and young trees sprout to make a green covering. It proves a blessing for simple sheep as it serves them as a shelter.
- (c) Daffodils bloom among the green surroundings. The rills or small streams of clear water make a cooling shelter for themselves against the hot season.
- (d) The mid forest brake is made rich by the blooming of beautiful musk-roses.
- (e) (i) pall, (ii) boon, (iii) rills, (iv) covert.

4. And such too is the grandeur of the dooms  
 We have imagined for the mighty dead;  
 MI lovely tales that we have heard or read;  
 An endless fountain of immortal drink,  
 Pouring unto us from the heaven's brink

Questions [Delhi 2014]

- (a) Name the poem and the poet of these lines.
- (b) Explain: 'the grandeur of the dooms'.
- (c) What is the thing of beauty mentioned in these lines'?
- (d) What image does the poet use in these lines?

Answers:

- (a) The poem is A Thing of Beauty. The poet is John Keats.
- (b) The magnificence that we imagine for our mighty dead forefathers on the dooms day.
- (c) The lovely tales of mighty men are mentioned in these lines.
- (d) The poet uses the image of 'an endless fountain of immortal drink' to describe the beautiful bounty of the earth. The earth has bestowed us with sun, moon, flowers, rivers, greenery etc.

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