

POETRY PORTIONS FOR GRADE 12

1. THE DARKLING THRUSH
2. DOVER BEACH
3. WE ARE THE MUSIC MAKERS
4. CROSSING THE BAR
5. BIRCHES

DARKLING THRUSH

1. When was the poem .Darkling Thrush written?
Ans-Towards the end of 19th century-describes initially the dying of old world- lack of hope and warmth- reflects his personal experience during this period.
2. When did the poet lean on the 'coppice gate'?
Ans-When frost was as thin as a ghost, when last part of winter was making the evening look desolate, intertwined bine stems looked like broken strings of lyre and all man king had returned home.
3. How do the land's sharp features seem to be the Century's corpse?
Ans-the cloudy canopy the tomb, he wind its lament, all seeds were shrunken due to extreme cold and everybody seemed unenthusiastic as on a funeral
4. What sudden song did the poet hear? Describe its source.
Ans-full-hearted song in the evening, with unlimited joy, came from an old thrush who was small, frail and beruffled, the song a contrast to the wide spreading gloom.
5. Describe the ecstasy of the voice and what lesson did the poet learn from it?
Ans-full-throated song of unlimited joy when external conditions were otherwise, there was so much of hope in the birds song which the poet had so far not found.
6. What is the theme of the poem?
Ans- 'The Darkling Thrush' is about one person's reaction to this change. It is about hope in the face of despair, about endings and cautious

beginnings, about courage when all seems lost, depending on the way you look at it.

7. What do you know about the form of the poem?

Ans- Each stanza is an **octet** — i.e. it comprises of 8 lines. Hardy even coined his own words — *outleant, blast-beruffled, spectre-grey*, contributing to the ordered meter/ rhythm of the poem. We have an **abab cdcd** rhyme scheme; each stanza repeats the same pattern but with a different end rhyme.

8. What are the other sound devices used in the poem?

Ans- **Assonance**: Repetition of similar vowel sounds.

At ona a voice arose among (O and A sounds- Line 17)

Consonance: Repetition of similar consonant sounds in neighboring words.

And Winter's dregs made desolate

The weakening eye of day (Lines 4-5)

An aged thrush, frail, gaunt, and small,

In blast-beruffled plume,

Had chosen thus to fling his soul

Upon the growing gloom. (Lines 24-28)

Alliteration: Repetition of initial consonant sounds.

That I could **t**hink **t**here trembled **t**hrough (Line 29)

His crypt the cloudy canopy, (Line 11)

Alliteration is a type of consonance. Here is an instance where the two overlapped:

In blast-beruffled plume (Line 25)

Consonance (L sound) + Alliteration (B sound)

DOVER BEACH

1. How is Dover Beach a dramatic monologue

Ans- both drama with an listener and a monologue with the speaker telling out his inner thoughts. The poet , the speaker who waxes eloquent on the eroding of faith with his wife, the silent listener.

2. Which word in the first stanza sets the mood changing?

Ans- 'Only' in the line - Only, from the long line of spray. Till then the mood was pleasant and of peace and beauty, but then onwards the poet talks about the roaring sound of misery.

3. Who is Sophocles and why does the poet talk about him?

Ans –Sophocles is an ancient Greek dramatist of the 5th century. The poet has brought him to establish eternity of human misery.

4. What is the sea of Faith?

Ans –Sea is the central metaphor of the poem. Sea of faith are the waves of ideas, faith and belief in religion and God that surrounded the lives of people. There is a change now—

5. What allusion do you find in the last stanza?

Ans-allusion to Greek historian-Thucydides' account of Athenian army fighting at night, they killed their own men at times.

6. What is the theme of the poem?

Ans-Man and natural world, loss of faith, human misery.

7. **What is Enjambment ?**

Ans-It is defined as a thought or verse that does not come to an end at a line break instead moves over the next line. For example,
And we are here as on a darkling plain
Swept with confused alarms of struggle and flight."

8. What is allusion?

Ans- Allusion is a belief and an indirect reference of a person, place, thing or idea of a historical, cultural, political or literary significance. This poem contains allusions as in the second stanza. For example, 'Sophocles'.

9. What is Pathetic Fallacy? Give an example.

Ans- It is a figure of speech in which objects are attributed to human emotions. For example, "Listen! you hear the grating roar, Of pebbles which the waves draw back, and fling" and "eternal note of sadness." Human beings experience these feelings attributed to pebbles

10. What is symbolism? Give an example.

Ans- Symbolism is using symbols to signify ideas and qualities, giving them symbolic meanings different from literal meanings. Similarly, "sea

of faith” symbolizes faith in god and Tide leaving the shore” is the symbol of lost faith.

WE ARE THE MUSIC MAKERS

1. Under what category of poem can you place this poem?

Ans- an Ode, a direct appeal or address to something or someone in order to praise- here artists

2. In the first stanza the poet euphemistically calls the artists music makers, dreamers of dreams, world-losers, world-forsakers and movers and shakers. Explain these terms.

Ans- Euphemism is indirect reference to something. Here music makers are the artists, dreamers of dreams are people who have lots of dreams and who chase them, world losers are people who lose the fun and mirth in life because of their reflective mind, world forsakers are people who have forsaken all the pleasures of life having chosen this poverty stricken life and movers and shakers are the rebellious people who can bring a change in life.

3. As given in the second stanza, what are the artists able to do?

Ans-with their endless creations they can build great cities.they can as they wish glorify or trample a town.

4. How does the poet prove that artists are immortal?

Ans-by the allusion of the city of Nineveh and Babel tower. Explain how.

5. How does the poet end the poem?

Ans-with the promise of a forthcoming dream. Every age sees to the end of one dream but the end marks the beginning of another.

CROSSING THE BAR

1. What does the bar stand for?

Ans the bar here is the sand bar, here the distance between life and death, once he crosses over the bar he will meet his pilot on the other side.

2. What do sunset and evening star symbolize?

Ans-death

3. How does the poet want to die?

Ans- without any commotion or grief from any one.

4. Why do you think the poet has used the word 'Pilot' to refer to God in the poem, 'Crossing the Bar'?

Ans. Tennyson had submitted himself to God when he felt his life's curtain was coming down. He had no guilt, no rancor, no remorse in his mind. He was deeply contented, and very averse to the idea of people grieving his death. For him, death was nothing but the precursor of another stage of life in the kingdom of God. A voyage across a sea is always fraught and uncertain. Navigating through the peril of the sea is the work of a deft man- a 'Pilot'. Tennyson felt his transition from this earth to the Heaven will be like sea journey, and God only could stand by him during this phase. This is why, he names God, the 'Pilot'.

BIRCHES

1. What does the poet like to believe when he sees the birches bent?

Ans- that it has been bent by some boy playing, though he knows very well it can't be permanently bent. Only ice –storms do that.

2. What do we see on a rainy morning on the birches?

Ans- we see the branches loaded with ice and as the sun rises the ice crackles and creates a prism within them. Finally the warmth of the sun crashes them and they fall on ground as pieces of glass.

3. To what are the trailing leaves compared?

Ans –To girls on hands and knees that throw their hair before the sun to dry it

4. What does the imagery of the boy swinging on the birches bring to our mind?

Ans- of a boy mastering the art of swinging by swinging on tree after the other- it could be learning how to live, being very balanced not going too much high in the air and not coming crashing down, having a glimpse of heaven once in a way.

5. When does the poet want to escape?

Ans- when the poet is wearied of the troubles and stressed out of the problems, he would want to high and then come back for earth is the best place for love.