



THE INDIAN PUBLIC SCHOOL, KOCHI

GRADE 12-ISC

SUBJECT- ENGLISH

DOVER BEACH- MATHEW ARNOLD [cont]

Stanza 2

Meanings-

grating roar = harsh roar

fling= throw back

strand= shore line

cease= stop

tremulous cadence= trembling musical sound

eternal=lasting for ever

Summary

The speaker asks the listener to listen to the harsh sounds made by the pebbles when the waves bring them to the shore and throw them back again to the sea. This action keeps repeating with a trembling musical sound. And the poet identifies it with eternal sadness- the sadness of human race.

Stanza 3

Meanings-

Sophocles- a Greek dramatist who lived in the 5th century.

Aegean= sea between Greece and Turkey

turbid=muddy

ebb and flow= repeated pattern of coming and going

a thought= another thought

Summary

All of a sudden, the speaker thinks about the ancient Greek playwright, Sophocles, and imagines Sophocles hearing the same sadness in the Aegean Sea as the speaker hears now on the English coast. Sophocles, in the mind of the speaker, compares the sad sound of the waves to the general sorrow of humanity, which moves like the waves. The speaker then notices another thought that comes with the sound of the sea.

Questions

1. What sound does the speaker ask the listener to listen?
2. To what is the sound thus made compared to?
3. Who had heard this sound long ago?
4. Who is Sophocles?
5. What does the poet intend to bring about with the comparison with Sophocles?