

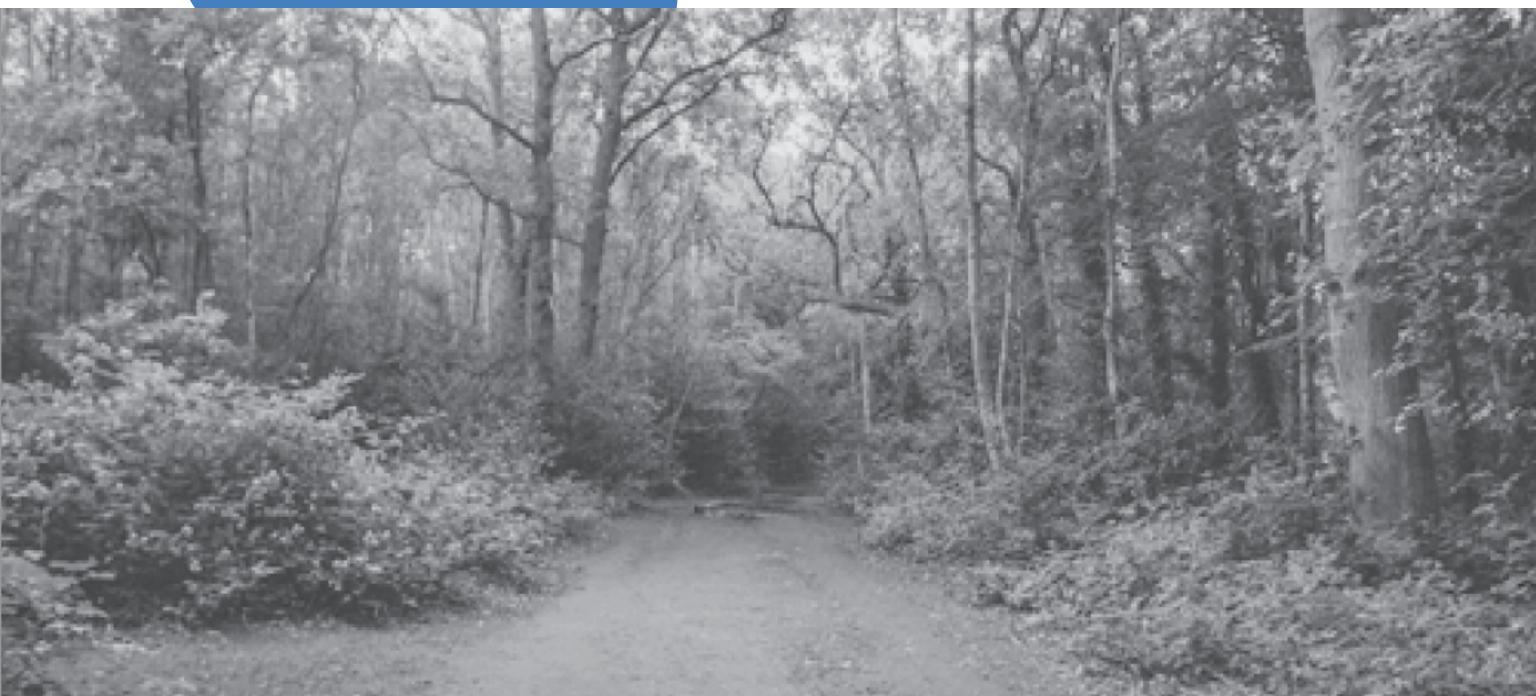


The Road Not Taken

1

— Robert Frost

NCERT SOLUTIONS



What's inside

- Textbook Exercise Q's (solved)

TEXTBOOK EXERCISE

Thinking About The Poem

I.1. Where does the traveller find himself? What problem does he face?

Ans. The traveller finds himself in the yellow woods at a point where the road divides in two parts. The problem that the poet faces is that he cannot decide which path to take to continue his journey because it is not possible for him to travel in both directions at the same time.

2. Discuss what these phrases mean to you.

- (i) a yellow wood
- (ii)it was grassy and wanted wear
- (iii)the passing there
- (iv)leaves no step had trodden black
- (v)how way leads on to way

Ans. (i) Yellow wood is a symbol of the autumn season. Autumn corresponds with old age. The poet could be, symbolically, talking about the later stage of life.

(ii) It conveys that the path was full of grass and no body had used that path. It was a smooth path that had not worn out.

(iii) It implies walking on the road.

(iv) It means the leaves had not been crushed under the feet of travellers.

(v) This means how certain decisions one makes in life could make way for many other decisions.

3. Is there any difference between the two roads as the poet describes them ?

- (i) in stanzas two and three.
- (ii)in the last two lines of the poem.

Ans. (i) In stanza two, the poet says that the only difference between the two roads was that the road he took had the right to be chosen (the better claim) as it was covered with grass and looked as if it had not been used much. However, in stanza three, the poet says that both the roads were equally covered with leaves and that no person had stepped on either of them.

(ii) In the last two lines of the poem, the poet says that there is a difference between the two roads because he took the road that was less travelled by other people and that made all the differences in his Journey.

4. What do you think the last two lines of the poem mean? (Looking back, does

the poet regret his choice or accept it?)

Ans. The last two lines have the gist of the poem. The poet expresses his opinion that it becomes difficult for a common man to change his/her decision. The poet wants to walk on the first road but he could not do so since life does not offer more change. The poet wanted to do something different in his life so he chose the less travelled way. No he does not regret his choice.

II.1. Have you ever had to make a difficult choice (or do you think you will have difficult choices to make)? How will you make the choice (for what reasons)?

Ans. Such type of situations occur in everyone's life. In today's world, people have numerous options. But they should take the decision after considering all the ins and outs of the situations. We must ruminate over the disadvantages as well.

[Note : Students may write their own experiences]

2. After you have made a choice do you always think about what might have been, or do you accept the reality?

Time is not measured by the passing of years but by what one does, what one feels, and what one achieves.—Jawaharlal Nehru

Ans. One should live in present and not in the past. Taking a decision sometimes makes or mars our future. The philosophy of 'is' is the key to attaining success. Life is not a bed of roses. All hurdles should be crossed bravely. One must not feel nervous. On some instances, one needs to be confident about one's choice. Therefore, I believe in sticking to my decisions.



Wind 2

—Subramania Bharati
[Translated by A.K. Ramanujan]

NCERT SOLUTIONS



What's inside

- Textbook Exercise Q's (solved)

TEXTBOOK EXERCISE

Thinking About The Poem

1. What are the things the wind does in the first stanza?

Ans. In the first stanza, the wind blows strongly. It breaks the doors of the window, scatters the papers and throws down the books on the shelf. It also tears the pages of the books and brings rain.

2. Have you seen anybody winnow grain at home or in a paddy field? What is the word in your language for winnowing? What do people use for winnowing? (Give the words in your language, if you know them.)

Ans. Yes, I have seen many ladies winnowing heaps of grain in my village. The word winnowing in our language is 'Barsana' ya 'udana'. People winnow grains to remove straws, chaff and dust found in grains there. In Hindi, the winnowing fan is called 'Chhaaj' used by the village people.

3. What does the poet say the wind God winnows?

Ans. The poet says that the wind God destroys weak houses, weak bodies, weak hearts, all the things available at home and-whatever comes its way.

4. How does we make wind our friend?

Ans. The poet says that we should build strong houses and fix the doors firmly to make friends with the wind. Moreover, we should be strong enough to face the obstacles in life.

5. What do the last four lines of the poem mean to you?

Ans. The last four lines of the poem convey the message that those who are not determined and lack confidence face defeat. And the people who set their targets and make sincere efforts are not disturbed by any difficulty.

6. How does the poet speak to the wind — in anger or with humour? You must also have seen or heard of the wind "crumbling lives". What is your response to this? Is it same as the poet's?

Ans. The elements of the wind are very powerful. They can be our friends and enemies. When the wind turns into a storm, it can blow away houses, trees and everything . It also causes damage to boats and frighten the sailors and fishermen out at sea. Yet, I do not agree with the poet that the wind only crumbles the lives. It is responsible to bring rain . It makes the climate pleasant. But I agree that we should build strong buildings to escape from the destruction of wind.

II. The poem you have just read is originally in the Tamil.

Do you know any such poems in your language?

The tree on the mountain takes whatever the weather brings. If it has any choice at all, it is in putting down roots as deeply as possible.

—Corrie Ten Boom

Ans. Yes, I know many poems like the one given here.(Do it yourself)



Rain on the Roof

3

— Coates Kinney

NCERT SOLUTIONS



What's inside

- Textbook Exercise Q's (solved)

TEXTBOOK EXERCISE

Thinking About The Poem

I.1. What do the following phrases mean to you? Discuss in class.

(i) humid shadows

Ans. The dark clouds that produce rain.

(ii) starry spheres

Ans. The night sky abounding in stars

(iii) what a bliss

Ans. Utmost joy felt by the poet.

(iv) a thousand dreamy fancies into busy being start

Ans. This refers to the various imaginary thoughts and fantasies that are aroused in the poet's mind.

(v) a thousand recollections weave their air-threads into woof

Ans. This means that numerous (many) memories intermingle to form a beautiful picture that the poet recollects.

2. What does the poet like to do when it rains?

Ans. When it rains, the poet feels delighted to lie down with his head pressed against the pillow of his bed in a room of rural cottage and listen to the patter of the soft rain on the tiles of the cottage roof.

3. What is the single major memory that comes to the poet? Who are the “darling dreamers” he refers to?

Ans. The single major memory that comes to the poet is that of his mother and her fond look.

The “darling dreamers” are the poet and his siblings in their childhood when they were lovingly put to sleep by their mother and later on their mother used to look at them while they were asleep.

4. Is the poet now a child? Is his mother still alive?

Ans. No, the poet is not a child now. He is a grown up man. He remembers her mother when he is inside his cosy cottage and enjoying the patter of rain on the roof. His mother is probably not alive, as he says in lines 17-18 that she comes in his memories just like in his childhood when she used to tuck him in his bed to sleep.

II. 1. When you were a young child, did your mother tuck you in, as the poet's did?

Ans. Yes, my mother used to tuck me in when I was a young child, just like the poet's

mother did.

2. Do you like rain? What do you do when it rains steadily or heavily as described in the poem?

Ans. Yes, I like the rain. When it rains steadily I get into my house and enjoy the weather with family. We enjoy tea. It is a wonderful experience to enjoy rainfall.

3. Does everybody have a cosy bed to lie in when it rains? Look around you and describe how different kinds of people or animals spend time, seek shelter etc. during rain.

All that I am or ever hope it be, I owe to my angel Mother. –Abraham Lincoln

Ans. No, everybody is not fortunate enough to have a cosy bed to lie in when it rains.

Not everybody gets to enjoy the comfort of cosy homes during rain. I have seen animals seeking shelter under trees and under the tin roofs of the small roadside tea stalls. The people passing by chase away these animals and try to shrink themselves under the limited space of these shops. The poor animals are left shivering and drenching on the roads. The shopkeepers of such stalls are delighted as the people waiting for the rain to subside often end up buying tea and snacks.
(Answer may vary)



The Lake Isle of Innisfree

4

—William Butler Yeats

NCERT SOLUTIONS



What's inside

- Textbook Exercise Q's (solved)

TEXTBOOK EXERCISE

Thinking About The Poem

I.1. What kind of place is Innisfree? Think about :

(i) The three things the poet wants to do when he goes back there (stanza I);

Ans.(a)The poet wants to build a small cabin with clay and wattles.

(b)He wants to plant nine rows of beans.

(c)He wants to keep honey bee hives.

(ii) What he hears and sees there and its effect on him (stanza II);

Ans.(a)He hears the cricket's song.

(b)He beholds linnets flying in the sky.

(c)He sees glimmering midnight and glowing rooms.

(iii) What he hears in his “heart’s core” even when he is far away from Innisfree (stanza III).

Ans.When the poet is far away from Innisfree he hears the sound of the lake water washing the shore in his “heart’s core”.

2. By now you may have concluded that Innisfree is a simple, natural place, full of beauty and peace. How does the poet contrast it with where he now stands? (Read stanza III.)

Ans.The poet contrasts the clay and wattle made cabin, bee loud glade, morning with dews and cricket's songs, midnight with glimmer, noon with purple glow, evenings with linnet's songs, lake water lapping with low sounds by the shore etc., all the simple beauties of Innisfree with the loud, noisy, dull and concrete pavements of the London streets.

3. Do you think Innisfree is only a place, or a state of mind? Does the poet actually miss the place of his boyhood days?

Ans.Although Innisfree is the poet's childhood haunt, it also represents his state of mind. The poet wishes to escape to Innisfree as it is more peaceful than where he is now-the city. Innisfree is representative of what the poet considers an ideal place to live, which is devoid of the restless humdrum of his life. Yes, the poet actually misses the place of his childhood days. Even when he is away from Innisfree, he recalls the' sound of the lake water rushing through the shore.

II. 1. Look at the words the poet uses to describe what he sees and hears at Innisfree

(i) Bee-loud glade

Ans. These words bring the image of buzzing bees to our minds.

(ii) Evenings full of the Linnets wings

Ans. These words bring up the image of linnets flying across in the evening

(iii) Lake water lapping with law sound.

What pictures to these words create in your mind?

Ans. These words evoke not only the image but also the soft sound of a lake's water washing the shore.

2. Look at these words :

... peace comes dropping slow

Dropping from the veils of the morning to where the cricket sings

What do these words mean to you? What do you think “comes dropping slow...from the veils of the morning”? What does “to where the cricket sings” mean?

Health is the greatest gift, contentment the greatest wealth, faithfulness the best relationship. —Gautama Buddha Lincoln

Ans. The given lines indicate that peace of mind can be slowly acquired from the natural surroundings. It is peace that “comes dropping slow...from the veils of the morning.” The phrase “to where the cricket sings” indicates a peaceful place where one can hear the vibrant sounds of nature- sounds such as the songs of the crickets at the time of dawn.



A Legend of the Northland **5**

—Phoebe Cary

NCERT SOLUTIONS



What's inside

- Textbook Exercise Q's (solved)

TEXTBOOK EXERCISE

Thinking About The Poem

I.1. Which country or countries do you think “the Northland” refers to?

Ans.“The Northland” could refer to any extremely cold country on the Earth’s North polar region, such as Greenland, the northern regions of Russia, Canada, Norway etc.

2. What did Saint Peter ask the old lady for? What was the lady’s reaction?

Ans.Saint Peter asked the old lady for one of her baked cakes as he was about to faint due to fasting. The lady tried to bake a small cake for the Saint.

3. How did Saint Peter punish the lady?

Ans.He punished the lady by changing her into a woodpecker. Saint Peter put a curse on the woman, telling her she was too selfish to live in a human form, having food, shelter and warm fire. He added that in the future, she would have to build her nest as the birds do and get scanty food by boring all day in the hard, dry wood.

4. How does the woodpecker get her food?

Ans.The woodpecker gets her food by boring holes into trees. Woodpeckers drill and drum on trees and extract insects with their long sticky tongues from deep within a hole of a tree.

5. Do you think that the old lady would have been so ungenerous if she had known who Saint Peter really was? What would she have done then?

Ans.No, the old lady would not have been so ungenerous if she had known who Saint Peter really was. Instead, she would have tried to please him with her cakes for the fulfillment of her greedy desires.

6. Is this a true story? Which part of this poem do you feel is the most important?

Ans.No, this is not a true story; it is a legend. I feel that the part where the old lady is changed into a woodpecker is the most important because the poet tries to imply here that every action has a consequence, and the outcome of selfish actions is difficult to bear.

7. What is a legend? Why is this poem called a legend?

Ans.A ‘legend’ is an old traditional and popular semi-true story that shows the values of human life. It is considered to be historical with mythical qualities. This poem is called a ‘legend’ because the poetess herself says that she doesn’t believe this tale to be true. The story is about Saint Peter. It conveys the lesson of sharing and

caring for people and moreover it also has the presence of a supernatural element at the end of the tale.

8. Write the story of ‘A Legend of the Northland’ in about ten sentences.

Ans. Once Saint Peter stopped by an old lady’s cottage because he was feeling tired and hungry after the day’s fasting. The lady was baking cakes on the hearth. Since he was feeling weak with fasting, he asked her for a cake from her store of cakes. The selfish lady tried to bake small cakes but each time they seemed too big for her to give away. Finally, she baked one that was as thin as a wafer. Unable to part with it too, she put it on a shelf and did not give any cake to the Saint.

So, Saint Peter was very angry with her behaviour and said she was too selfish to live as a human and have food, shelter and a fire to keep her warm. He punished her by changing that lady into a woodpecker that would have to build a nest to live in and bore for food in the trunks of trees. Her clothes were burned and she was left with her scarlet cap on her head as she flew out through the chimney. Even today, she lives in the woods boring and boring for food. Every country school boy has seen her.

II.1. Let’s look at the words at the end of the second and fourth lines, viz., ‘snows’ and ‘clothes’, ‘true’ and ‘you’, ‘below’ and ‘know.’ We find that ‘snows’ rhymes with ‘clothes’, ‘true’ rhymes with ‘you’ and ‘below’ rhymes with ‘know’.

Find more such rhyming words.

Ans. 1.

Stanza	Line	Word	Line	Word
1	2	few	4	through
2	2	snows	4	clothes
3	2	true	4	you
4	2	below	4	know
5	2	earth	4	hearth
6	2	done	4	one
7	2	lay	4	away
8	2	one	4	done
9	2	flat	4	that
10	2	myself	4	shelf
11	2	faint	4	saint
12	2	form	4	warm
13	2	food	4	wood
14	2	word	4	bird

15	2	same	4	flame
16	2	wood	4	food

- 2. Go to the local library or talk to older persons in your locality and find legends in your own language. Tell the class these legends.**

Ans. Yes, there are many legends in my language. (Do it yourself)



No Men Are Foreign

6

— James Kirkup

NCERT SOLUTIONS



What's inside

- Textbook Exercise Q's (solved)

TEXTBOOK EXERCISE

Thinking About The Poem

1. (i) “Beneath all uniforms . . .” What uniforms do you think the poet is speaking about?

Ans. The poet is probably speaking about the uniforms that generally the soldiers wear at the time of war. The word “uniform” here could also mean the traditional dresses of a country.

(ii) How does the poet suggest that all people on earth are the same?

Ans. The poet suggests that all people on land are the same as all are born and buried in a similar way. Everybody, who is on this earth, breathes, walks, sleeps, loves. The importance of the sun, air and water is equal for everyone. Everyone needs peace and suffers from starvation during wars.

2. In stanza 1, find five ways in which we all are alike. Pick out the words.

Ans. Five ways which suggest that we all are alike are :

- (a) Each of us has a similar body
- (b) All of us breathe
- (c) All of us walk
- (d) All of us lie
- (e) We live and die on the same earth

3. How many common features can you find in stanza 2? Pick out the words.

Ans. There are five common features in stanza 2. These features are the sun, the air, the water, peaceful harvest, hands of the labour.

4. “...whenever we are told to hate our brothers...” When do you think this happens? Why? Who ‘tells’ us? Should we do as we are told at such times? What does the poet say?

I am a citizen, not of Athens as Greece, but of the World. —Socrates

Ans. Whenever there is war, leaders will instigate people to hate the other country and betray their own brothers. They tell us to do so because of their personal gains. But we should not become puppets in the act and do as they say. We should understand that the war is futile and analyse the situation before jumping to conclusions. The poet says that if we fight against them, we kill and condemn ourselves and defile our mother earth.

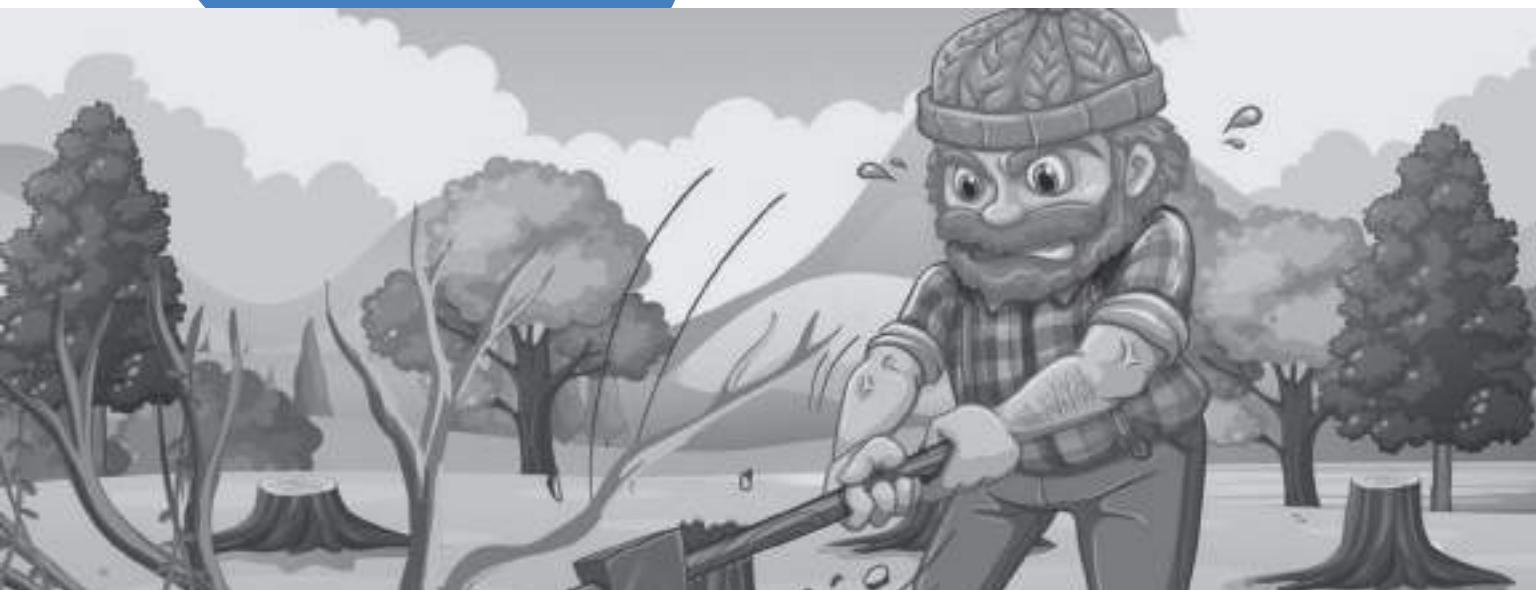


On Killing a Tree

7

— Gieve Patel

NCERT SOLUTIONS



What's inside

- Textbook Exercise Q's (solved)

TEXTBOOK EXERCISE

Thinking About The Poem

1. Can a “simple jab of the knife” kill a tree? Why not?

Ans.No, a simple jab of a knife wouldn't be enough to kill a tree because it will heal itself in the due course of time if it is not destroyed by uprooting it completely. Moreover, only chopping cannot kill it because it will slowly rise again and grow to its original size.

2. How has the tree grown to its full size? List the words suggestive of its life and activity.

Ans.The tree has grown to its full size by absorbing years of sunlight, water, and air. It slowly grows out of the earth and sprouts its leaves. The words suggestive of its life and activity are ‘grown slowly consuming the earth’, ‘rising out of it’, ‘feeding upon its crust’, ‘absorbing years of sunlight, air, water’.

3. What is the meaning of ‘bleeding bark’? What makes it bleed?

Ans.The ‘Bleeding bark’ refers to the bark of the tree which gives out a liquid after it is cut or hurt. Chopping and hacking the tree make its bark bleed.

4. The poet says ‘No’ in the beginning of the third stanza. What does he mean by this?

Ans.The poet says ‘No’ in the beginning of the third stanza, to focus on the fact that mere chopping of the tree would not kill it. The tree would grow again and retain its original size.

5. What is the meaning of ‘anchoring earth’ and ‘earth cave’?

Ans.It means the earth that gives protection to the tree. The earth, that is, the soil keeps the tree in its grip and gives life to it. ‘Earth cave’ means a hole inside it. The tree has its roots in it. As a cave gives shelter, similarly, the earth gives shelter to the roots.

6. What does he mean by ‘the strength of the tree exposed’?

Ans.The strength of the tree are its roots. When the tree is pulled out of the soil, they become lifeless.

7. What finally kills the tree?

Ans.When the tree is entirely uprooted , it lies exposed in the sun and it dries up. It cannot feed on the soil. It cannot breathe and then it dies.

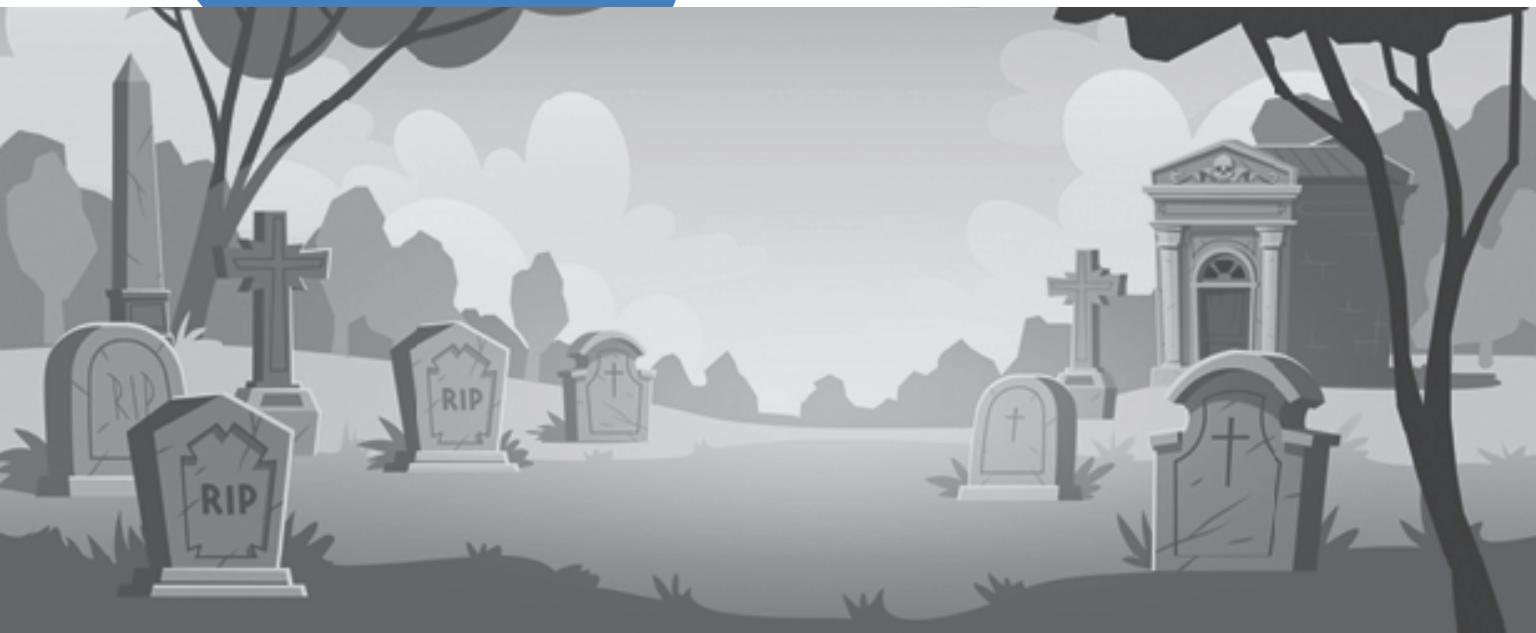


A Slumber Did My Spirit Seal

8

—William Wordsworth

NCERT SOLUTIONS



What's inside

- Textbook Exercise Q's (solved)

TEXTBOOK EXERCISE

Thinking About The Poem

1. “A slumber did my spirit seal,” says the poet. That is, a deep sleep ‘closed off’ his soul (or mind). How does the poet react to his loved one’s death? Does he feel bitter grief? Or does he feel a great peace?

Ans. The poet’s reaction to his loved one’s death is not of bitter grief that he could shed out in the form of tears. On her death, he did not experience any human fears. He just looked at her and wondered how she looked and what she would experience later. Therefore, it is difficult to say whether he is experiencing bitter grief or is in a peaceful state of mind.

2. The passing of time will no longer affect her, says the poet. Which lines of the poem say this?

Ans. The following lines show that the passing of time will no longer affect her :

“She seemed a thing that could not feel
The touch of earthly years.”

3. How does the poet imagine her to be, after death? Does he think of her as a person living in a very happy state (a ‘heaven’)? Or does he see her now as a part of nature? In which lines of the poem do you find your answer?

Ans. The poet imagines her to be an inseparable part of nature. No, he does not think that she is in heaven because ‘heaven’ is not a dead thing. He believes that she has become a part of the nature. It is shown in the line ‘Rolled round in earth’s diurnal course/With rocks and stones and trees’.