

BHARATIYA VIDYA BHAVAN'S V M PUBLIC SCHOOL, VADODARA

FLAMINGO

Poem 1. My Mother at Sixty Six –Kamala Das

I looked again at her, wan, pale
as a late winter's moon and felt that
old familiar ache, my childhood's fear,
but all I said was, see you soon,
Amma,
all I did was smile and smile and
smile.....

Questions

- Who looked wan and pale and why?
- What was the speaker's familiar ache?
- How were the parting words of the poet and her smile in contrast to her real feelings?
- Explain the comparison : "as a late winter moon"

Poem 2. An Elementary School Classroom in a Slum –Stephen Spender

1 Surely, Shakespeare is wicked, the map a bad example,
with ships and sun and love tempting them to steal–
for lives that slyly turn in their cramped holes
From fog to endless night?

Questions

- Why is the Shakespeare wicked? Why is the map a bad example?
- How does the poet describe the present condition of these children in these lines?
- Explain "From fog to endless night"?

2 And show the children to green fields, and make their world.

Run azure on gold sands, and let their tongue
Run naked into books the white and green leave open
History theirs whose language is the sun.

Questions

- Where will the children's world extend up to?
- What other freedom should the children enjoy?
- Who can create history?
- Explain : "Run azure on gold sands".

Poem 3. Keeping Quiet –Pablo Neruda

Read the following extracts and answer the questions that follow each:

What I want should not be confused
With total inactivity.
Life is what it is about.
I want no truck with death
If we were not so single-minded
about keeping our lives moving
perhaps a huge silence
might interrupt this sadness
of never understanding ourselves
and of threatening ourselves with death.

Questions

- (a) What does total inactivity mean?
- (b) What is our single-mindedness?
- (c) How has it affected us?
- (d) What are the two things that have caused 'this sadness'?

Poem 4. A Thing of Beauty –by John Keats

Read the following extracts and answer the questions that follow each:

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 :

Questions

- (a) Why does the poet feel that we are wreathing a flowery band?
- (b) Why is the poet not happy with human beings?
- (c) Explain "O'er darkened ways".

Poem 6. Aunt Jeniffer's tigers –Adrienne Rich

Read the following extracts and answer the questions that follow each:

When Aunt is dead, her terrified hands will lie
still ringed with ordeals she was mastered by.
The tigers in the panel that she made
will go on prancing, proud and unafraid.

- (a) Why are Aunt Jennifer's hands called 'terrified'?
- (b) What are they still ringed with ?
- (c) Where did she make the tigers ?
- (d) What will happen to her tigers after her death ?
- (e) Find words from the stanza which mean :
 - (i) scared (ii) surrounded (iii) boar