

Class XII**ENGLISH****Poem Appreciation questions for all the Units - Question number 21-26**

(READ THE FOLLOWING SETS OF POETIC LINES AND ANSWER THE QUESTIONS GIVEN BELOW EACH THEM) **QUESTION 21-26**

POEM-1 A PSALM OF LIFE

**1. Still, like muffled drums, are beating
Funeral marches to the grave.**

- a) What are beating like 'muffled drums'? b) what are surrounding like muffled drums?
c) Mention the figure of speech used in this line?

2. In the world's broad field of battle.

In the bivouac of Life,

- a) Write the words in alliteration in the above lines? b) What is the world compare to?
c) Why life is compared to? d) Mention the figure of speech used in this line?

3. Tell me not, in mournful numbers,

Life is but an empty dream! –

- a) What are mournful numbers? b) What does poet say an empty life?
c) How does the poet look upon life? d) is life an empty dream?

4. In the bivouac of Life,

Be not like dumb, driven cattle!

Be a hero in the strife!

- a) What is meant by bivouac of life? b) Mention the figure of speech used in this line?
c) Write the words in alliteration in the above lines? d) What does the poet expect us to be?
e) What is meant by 'strife'?

5. Dust thou art, to dust returnest,

- a) What is the allusion here?
b) what is the reference here? c) To whom does 'thou' refer? d) Where does man return to?

6. For the soul is dead that slumbers,

- a) Write the words in alliteration in the above lines?

7. Trust no Future, howe'er pleasant!

Let the dead Past bury its dead!

- a) What should be buried?
b) What is to be given importance?

8. Life is real! Life is earnest!

And the grave is not its goal;

- a) What does "grave" refer to?
b) What is the message conveyed by these lines? c) How is life to be viewed?

9. Still achieving, still pursuing,

Learn to labor and to wait.

- a) Write the words in alliteration in the above lines? b) Mention the figure of speech used in this line?

10. Footprints, that perhaps another,

Sailing o'er life's solemn main,

- a) Write the words in alliteration in the above lines?
b) who leave the foot prints? c) where do they leave them?

11. But to act, that each tomorrow

Find us farther than today.

- a) What do these lines reveal about the mindset of the speaker?

12. A forlorn and shipwrecked brother,

Seeing, shall take heart again.

- Explain 'shall take heart 'again.
- Who is a forlorn and ship wrecked brother?

POEM WOMEN'S RIGHTS

1. To live, unknown beyond the cherished circle,

1. What is meant by cherished circle? or Give the meaning 'cherished circle '?

2. As humble plants by country hedgerows growing,

- Explain the comparison.
- Mention the figure of speech used in this line?
- What are women compared to here? Or Who are women compared to here?

3. We claim to dwell, in quiet and seclusion,

Beneath the household roof,

- Where do women claim to live? or Where do they like to live?
- What kind of life do women prefer to live?
- How do they want to live?

4. You cannot rob us of the rights we cherish,

- Who cannot rob?
- What cannot be robbed?
- Write the words in alliteration in the above lines?
- Who do you think this line is addressed to?

5. Not in a dreamy and inane abstraction

To sleep our life away,

- What is meant by inane abstraction? Or Explain inane abstraction.
- Explain 'sleep our life away'

6. We claim to dwell, in quiet and seclusion,

Beneath the household roof,

- Where do women live?

7. Be privileged to fill the air around us With happiness;

- What is the privileged?
- Who was privileged?
- What do they fill the air?

8. From the great world's harsh strife, and jarring voices,

- How do women want to live?

9. From the bright picture of a "Woman's Mission" Our hearts portray.

- What is the picture referred to here?

10. To sleep our life away,

1. What does 'sleep 'mean in this context?

11. So let us, unobtrusive and unnoticed,

But happy none the less,

2. Mention the figure of speech used in this line?

POEM-3 A NOISELESS, PATIENT SPIDER

1. A NOISELESS, patient spider,

I mark'd where on a little promontory it stood isolated,

- Whom does 'it' refer to?
- Why is the spider considered patient?
- Who stood isolated?
- Who tried to explore?
- What is promontory?

2. It launch'd forth filament, filament, filament, out of itself, Ever unreeling them, ever tirelessly speeding them.

1. What produces the filament or who launched the filament? 2. How does the spider stand?

3. Ceaselessly musing, venturing, throwing, seeking the spheres to connect them,

1. Who is musing continuously ?

4. Till the bridge you will need be form'd, till the ductile anchor hold, Till the gossamer thread you fling catch somewhere, O my soul. 1. What is the mean by gossamer thread?

5. Till the gossamer thread you fling catch somewhere, O my soul.

1. Who throws gossamer thread?

5. And you O my soul where you stand, Surrounded, detached, in measureless oceans of space,

1. How is our soul? What does the soul signify?

Unit-4 ENGLISH WORDS

1. O tongues of fire! You came devouring forest of nightshade.

1. What is speech compared to here?
2. Who is addressed as 'tongues of fire'?
3. What is referred to as 'tongues of fire'?
4. Give the meaning of **devouring**?

2. You ripened into nectar in fruit-jars

That hung like clustered stars.

1. What does word 'you' refer to?

2. Give the meaning of the word **clustered**?

3. O winged seeds! You crossed the furrowed seas

1. What is the figure of speech used in the given line?
2. Write out the alliteration.
3. Who is addressed here as winged seeds? Or what do **winged seeds** refer to?
4. What does the poem mean by **You crossed the furrowed seas**?

4. Speech that came like leech-craft

1. What is the figure of speech used in the given line?

5. You pose the cosmic riddles:

1. What is the cosmic riddles?

6. You blossomed into a nascent loveliness.

1. What does the poet mean by nascent loveliness?
2. Whom does the word **you** refer to?

7. O winging words! Like homing bees you borrow

1. Who addressed here as winging words

8. Sweetened within our souls for aeons bright:

1. Write out the words in alliteration in the above line

9. You bleached our souls soiled with impurities

1. Write out the words in alliteration in the above line

10. That hung like clustered stars.

1. What is the figure of speech used in the given line?

11. Like a golden swarm of fireflies you came.

1. What is the figure of speech used in the given line?

12. You were the dawn, and sunlight filled the spaces

Where owls were hovering.

1. What do owls symbolise?

13. Fathomless words, with Indo-Aryan blood

Tingling in your veins.

1. Explain: **Indo-Aryan blood**

14. The spoils of ages, global merchandise

Mingling in your strains!

1. Explain 'global merchandise'?

Unit-5 SNAKE

1.I thought how paltry, how vulgar, what a mean act!

1. *What was the Vulgar and mean act?*
2. *What was the mean act?*
3. *Whom does I refer to?*

**2. Someone was before me at my water-trough,
And I, like a second comer, waiting..**

Who is someone?

1. *Who is second comer?*
2. *What was the reason for visiting the water trough?*

3.The voice of my education said to me:

He must be killed,

1. *How will you explain 'voice of my education'?*
2. *Who must be killed?*
3. *What did the poet's voice of education tell him?*
4. *Whom does 'he' refer to?*

4.Like a king in exile, uncrowned in the underworld

1. *What is the figure of speech used in the given line?*
2. *Who was the king in exile?*
3. *What is the figure of speech used in the given line?*

5.And I have something to expiate; A pettiness.

1. *What does the word **pettiness** refer to here?*

6. the day of Sicilian July, with Etna smoking.

The voice of my education said to me:

He must be killed

1. *Whom does he stand for?*
2. *What is meant by the voice of my education?*
3. *What is **Etna**?*

7.And I thought of the albatross,

And I wished he would come back, my snake.

1. *What is the allusion referred to here?*
2. *What is an albatross?*
3. *What did the poet wish for?*

**8.And flickered his tongue like a forked night on the air, so black,
Seeming to lick his lips,**

1. *What was the snake's tongue like?*

9. In the deep, strange-scented shade of the great dark carob-tree

1. *Write out the words in alliteration in the above line.*

10. How glad I was he had come like a guest in quiet, to drink at my water-trough

1. *Who had come like a guest in quiet?*
2. *What is snake compared to?*

11.And lifted his head, dreamily, as one who has drunken,

What is the figure of speech used in the given line?

12. And voices in me said: If you were a man

You would take a stick and break him now

1. *why did the voice say so?*

13. I despised myself and the voices of my accursed human education.

1. *Who is the speaker ?*
2. *Why does the despise himself?*

**14. And truly I was afraid, I was most afraid;
But even so, honoured still more**

1. *Who was afraid ?*
2. *Why did he feel honoured ?*

15. He drank enough

And lifted his head, dreamily, as one who has drunken,

1. *Who does He refer to?*

16. But must I confess how I liked him,

1. *Whom did he like?*
2. *Whom does I refer to?*

17. And as he slowly drew up, snake-easing his shoulders, and entered farther,

1. *Write out the words in alliteration in the above line.*

**18.Like homing bees you borrow
Grown murmurus, the honey of delight,**

2. *Explain the comparison?*

Unit -6 THE MAN HE KILLED

1. "I shot him dead because

Because he was my foe,

1. *Why did the poet shoot him?*
2. *Why did the poet or narrator shoot the other man?*
3. *What did the soldier do? Or What did the poet do?*
4. *How did the poet treat his foe?*

2. We should have sat us down to wet

Right many a nipperkin!"

1. *What is nipperkin?*

3. "But ranged as infantry,

And staring face to face,

1. *Who were staring face to face?*
2. *What is infantry?*

4. "Had he and I but met

By some old ancient inn,

1. *Whom does I refer to?*

5. "Yes; quaint and curious war is!

1. *who is speaker?*
2. *Who is the war quaint and curious?*
3. *In what way is war quaint and curious?*

6. You'd treat if met where any bar is

Or help to half-a-crown."

1. *Write out the words in alliteration in the above line.*

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