



CLASS : IX

Subject: English
Topic: Poem 1

Date: 08/05/20
Time Limit: 30 mins

Worksheet No. : 11

[Copy the questions and answers neatly and correctly date wise. Keep the pages ready in a file to be submitted on the opening day.]

The Heart of the Tree

- Henry Cuyler Bunner

- 1. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow: What does he plant who plants a tree?**

He plants a friend of sun and sky;
He plants the flag of breezes free;
The shaft of beauty, towering high;
He plants a home to heaven anigh;

- (i) Who is the poet asking the question in the first line of the extract? List any two things, according to the extract, that man will do by planting trees.**

The poet does not put this question to anybody in particular. It is a rhetorical question to draw the reader's attention to the importance of planting trees. He himself answers the question . According to the extract the man who plants a tree plants 'a friend of sun and sky, and home for birds and animals near heaven. '

- (ii) Give the meaning of the following lines:**

**He plants a friend of sun and sky;
He plants the flag of breezes free;
The shaft of beauty, towering high;
He plants a home to heaven anigh;**

A tree is a friend of the sun and the sky. The sun and the sky help a tree to grow up and spread its branches. The tree in turn keeps the air clean. A tree flutters like a flag in the breeze, and makes the breeze cool and fresh. The tree is beautiful, tall like a tower. A tree is a home for birds and animals. They make their nests high up in the sky.

iii) In what way are the trees friends of sun and sky? How can a man plant the flag of breezes free?

Trees need the light of the sun to make their food by the process of photosynthesis. It needs sky (space) to spread its branches. Trees clean and purify the air, and cool the breezes. In this way trees, sun and sky help each other like friends.

iv) What is meant by “the shaft of beauty”? What is compared to the shaft?

A tree grows. Its trunk looks the shaft of a flag. The tree is beautiful and compared to the shaft of beauty.

v) What is the impact of the beginning the poem with a question? What is the figure of speech used here?

Beginning the poem with a question draws reader's attention to an important topic: 'Why we should plant trees!' The figure of speech used here is 'rhetorical question'.

2. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that

follow: For song and mother-croon of bird

In hushed and happy twilight heard—
The treble of heaven's harmony— These
things he plants who plants a tree.

i) What is known as mother-croon of bird? Why the song is sung in a hushed voice?

The soft sweet song mother bird sings to her chicks in evening is described as mother-croon of birds. The song is sung in the quiet, and happy twilight when the mother birds returns to her little ones for the night. It is a sort of lullaby.

ii) What is twilight? Why is it a happy twilight?

Twilight is the faint light at the end of the day when the sun goes down. It is a happy twilight because mother bird has returned to her nest and she is with her chicks. It is like a happy home.

iii) What is meant by a) treble b) Heaven's harmony? What role does the treble play in heaven's harmony?

Treble is high tone in music, in the evening there is peace and harmony in nature. The treble note of the mother bird is like pleasant music to the quiet atmosphere.

iv) In this lesson, under the heading. Style, the meaning of metonymy is given. Give two examples of metonymy from the extract. How is it used in the context?

Metonymy is a figure of speech in which a thing or concept is called not by its own name but rather by another name associated with that thing or concept. In this poem a tree is called by various names associated with it. For example a tree is called 'the flag of breezes free' and 'a shaft of beauty towering high'.

v) **Give four functions which a tree performs on this earth.**

A tree provides cool shade. A tree takes up carbon dioxide and releases oxygen. A tree causes rain to fall. A tree provides shelter to birds and beasts.

3. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow: He plants cool shade and tender rain,

*And seed and bud of days to be, And
years that fade and flush again; He
plants the glory of the plain; He
plants the forest's heritage; The
harvest of a coming age;
The joy that unborn eyes shall see—*

i) **Enumerate any three benefits of planting trees as suggested by the poet in this extract. What do the plants do to provide cool shade in a place?**

Plants provide cool shade and gentle rain. They provide seeds and buds which grow into trees. Over a period of time trees multiply and turn into a forest. Plants obstruct the rays of the sun, and provide cool shade.

ii) **The water evaporates, condenses and falls as rain. What role do the trees play in this process of producing rain?**

Water evaporates. To condense and fall as rain they need to be cooled down. Trees are cool, and help the vapours to condense and fall as rain.

(iii) **How do the last two lines of the extract explain the process of regeneration? How does the man plant the forest's heritage?**

Trees produce seeds and buds. These seeds dry up but they do not die. They lie in the soil. When they get proper conditions to grow, they sprout and grow up into trees again. They become forests and provide benefits to the coming generations.

(iv) **How do the trees provide for the harvest of the following years?**

Trees are source of hundreds of useful things. They provide us with fruit and medicines. They provide us material for building homes and huts. They provide us material for clothing. In fact our survival depends on them. The benefits that comes from trees we plant now is the harvest of the following years.

(v) **What do the expression, unborn eyes indicate? What will see they see? Why will they rejoice?**

The expression 'unborn eyes' is used for the children yet to be born. If we plant trees now, those children will be happy to see the beautiful trees. They will rejoice because trees are not only beautiful to look at, but also provide us shade, rain, fruit, flowers, medicines and hundreds of other things and clean the atmosphere.

4. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

He plants, in sap and leaf and wood,
In love of home and loyalty
And far-cast thought of civic good—
His blessings on the neighborhood,
Who in the hollow of His hand
Holds all the growth of all our land—
A nation's growth from sea to sea
Stirs in his heart who plants a tree.

(i) The poet says: "He plants, in sap and wood". Which figure of speech is used here? Explain its usage with two other examples from the poem.

Metonymy is the figure of speech used here 'sap', 'leaf' and 'wood' here stand for a tree. The other example of metonymy are 'the forest's heritage' 'a flag of breezes free'.

(ii) What is meant by 'far-cast thought of civic good'? In what way is the planter's work a blessing? State for whom it is a blessing.

A 'far-cast thought' means foresight. A person who plants a tree can foresee how the tree he plant will do good to society. It is a blessing to the neighborhood because it will provide cool shade, fruit, flowers etc. to them. Moreover a tree is beautiful to look. It will be a pleasing sight.

(iii) Give the meaning of the following lines:

Who in the hollow of His hand
Holds all the growth of all our land—

A person who plants a tree holds a little sapling or a seed in the palm of his hand. But this seed is the seed of prosperity of his nation. A seed or a sapling grows into a big tree and trees multiply into forests which are so beneficial for a nation's growth and development.

(iv) In what way a nation's growth depends on planting trees?

Trees are essential for the maintenance of ecological balance. They not only give shelter to birds and beasts but also produce oxygen which is essential for life on earth. Trees cause rain to fall, and provide us food and material for shelter and clothing. Without trees the world will turn into a desert and life will become impossible. Trees provide so many useful things that the growth of a nation depends on them.

(v) Comment on the appropriateness of the title of the poem The Heart of the Tree.

When you speak of-one's heart, you refer to one's generosity and kindness. In this sense The Heart of The Tree' is an apt title. A tree is generous and kind to all without discrimination. It lives and dies for the good of others. It provides shade and shelter. It provides fruit and food. It provides material for building homes, ships and other useful things. Every part of a tree is beneficial What a heart a tree has!
