

^{SAYS IN HIS HEART WHO PLANTS A TREE}
The Heart of the Tree.

SOLVED EXAMPLE Class IX POEMS

Extract-based Question

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

What does he plant who plants a tree?

He plants cool shade and tender rain,
And seed and bud of days to be,
And years that fade and flush again;

(i) Why does he plant the tree?

Ans. He plants the tree for the benefit of mankind. By doing so, he makes the earth a better place for human existence.

(ii) What does the poet mean by 'fade and flush again'?

Ans. The poet explains that the trees are lifeline for men. They may go down but are planted again to secure a healthy life for us. The growth of life never ceases due to tree plantation.

(iii) Explain: 'cool shade and tender rain'.

Ans. The poet says that the trees give us cool shade and save us from excessive heat. Their plantation invites heavy rain that saves earth from global warming.

(iv) Throw light on the message of the poem.

Ans. The poet conveys a beautiful message through this poem. He points out that planting trees is as important as breathing air. No life is possible without trees and people must plant maximum trees to make the earth a green planet.

(v) Name the poem and the poet.

Ans. The poem is *The Heart of the Tree* and the poet is Henry Cuyler Bunner.

Question 7.

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

*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) What is 'civic good'? Who is responsible for doing 'civic good'? How? [3]

Ans. The well-being of people who live in a community, or the citizens of a country is 'civic good'. A person who plants a tree is responsible for doing 'civic good' because the effect of his good deed lasts for years and contributes to the welfare of the community and even the country on so many different levels.

(ii) What blessings are felt by the neighbourhood? [3]

Ans. The blessings felt by the neighbourhood are many. The shade of the tree and the breeze among its branches is cool and pleasant. The songs of the birds that make the tree their home is delightful. The trees are immensely responsible for the water cycle and the rain that benefits everybody and everything in nature.

(iii) How does this extract show that a simple act can have a very wide impact? [3]

Ans. A simple act of planting a tree can have a great impact. Not only does the neighbourhood benefit from the act but the harvest of the tree is also reaped even by the future generations. In fact it is a divine act of benefitting humanity, because the act of planting a tree will benefit the immediate neighbourhood, which will in turn benefit the community and then in turn benefit the entire nation by the resources provided by it.

(iv) How is the title of the poem appropriate? [3]

Ans. The title of the poem is 'The Heart of the Tree'. It is appropriate because like the heart, the tree is the most important element of the Earth and the world we live in. The heart is the most important organ of our body, helping in the circulation of blood, ensuring all life processes go on. The tree with its sap, leaves and wood also ensures the important processes of photosynthesis that is essential for life. Trees take in carbon dioxide and convert it into life sustaining oxygen. When a person, with a generous heart, plants a tree, he plants the heart of all Nature. The heart of a tree proves beneficial to mankind.

(v) How can this act of 'civic good' have far-reaching effects on the future generations? [4]

Ans. Trees generate new life by the seed and the bud. This process repeats itself year after year with regularity. Even if a tree ultimately dies, it has already sustained and created new life in the process of regeneration. A man may plant a tree in a moment, but this deed has a lasting effect on the generations to follow. The glory of the plain is enhanced by trees. Trees are forest's heritage and 25 the harvest of coming age.

(v) Write your answer in the space provided.

SECTION B — POETRY

Answer one or more questions from this Section.

A Collection of Poems

Q7. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

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) Who is 'his'? What does he do?
- (ii) What happens to the neighbourhood?
- (iii) How does he contribute to the nation's growth?
- (iv) Name the poem and the poet.
- (v) What is the message of the above lines?

looking after all those he considered were left out.

- Ans - 7.
- (i) The poet refers to him as a man who plants a tree. He believes in planting trees ceaselessly.
 - (ii) Planting trees makes environment healthy and worth living. The positive effect of planting a tree is betterment of the neighbourhood.
 - (iii) The growth and prosperity of a nation is known by its rich vegetation. A large number of trees make a nation rich and great.
 - (iv) The poem is 'The Heart of the Tree' by Henry Cuyler Bunner.
 - (v) The poet firmly conveys the message of planting of trees. Trees are the lifeline of a nation.

class IX poetry

The Cold within

SOLVED EXAMPLE

Extract-based Question

1. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow.

Their dying fire in need of logs,
But the first one held hers back,
For, of the faces round the fire,
She noticed one was black.

(i) What kind of weather it was?

Ans. The weather was very bad. It was severe cold and six humans were caught in this bleak and bitter cold.

(ii) Why were the logs required?

Ans. It was difficult for them to survive in such biting cold without fire. The log of each one of them was required for burning the fire.

(iii) What did she do when she noticed one was 'black'?

Ans. The woman knew the fire would die if she didn't part with her log. But she never wanted to sacrifice her log to save the life of a black woman.

(iv) Why did she do so? Do you agree with her actions?

Ans. She was selfish and unkind. Her selfish action can't be justified. She didn't act in a kind and selfless manner.

(v) What is the moral of the poem? Explain.

Ans. The poem conveys a very strong message that all mankind must give up discrimination on the basis of caste, creed or religion in the society. The white woman was unwilling to save a black woman even at the cost of her own life.

SECTION B — POETRY
A Treasure Trove of Poems

Question 7.

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

*Their logs held tight in death's still hands
Was proof of human sin.
They didn't die from the cold without
They died from the cold within.*

- (i) Give an example of personification from the extract. How many people were there? Explain the reference to logs. [3]

Ans. The example of personification from the extract is 'logs held tight in death's still hands'. There were six people sitting around a dying fire that could have been fed with a log of wood that each held in their hands. However, each person was reluctant to use his log because he had a problem with another person there and what he represented.

- (ii) What 'human sin' have the men committed? What was the consequence? [3]

Ans. To see others suffer and be blind to it is a sin. To allow oneself to perish without making an effort to take control of the situation is a sin. To give up on humanity and ignore your suffering and the suffering of others is a sin. To die in vain is also a sin. To have the ability to help and ignore the suffering is a sin. The consequence of apathy of all people in the poem is death. It is a spiritual death, for they could not act for humanity, the cold within and a physical death because of the cold outside.

- (iii) Explain the meaning of the 'cold without' and the 'cold within'. [3]

Ans. The weather was cold, 'bleak and bitter', as it is described. This is the cold without. The six people tried to keep warm by the dying fire. Each one had a log of wood which could have kept the fire burning and they could have survived. But each person had a prejudice in his heart against the other and did not want to help the situation by giving the log of wood to the

fire. This apathy, indifference and bitterness is the cold within. It symbolizes lack of warmth and love for humanity.

(iv) Give examples from the poem to show how the men were 'cold within'. [3]

Ans. The first person did not want to give her log of wood because of the presence of a black man. The black man felt bitter about the treatment meted out to him and wanted to spite the white. The poor man did not want to help the idle rich and the rich man did not want to help the lax shiftless poor. The presence of a man belonging to another church made one man not to want to pitch in. The last man only acted if he were to gain, he evidently did not find any reason to profit from the situation and so he did not help. All these examples show how each person lacked warmth, empathy and thus they were all cold within.

(v) How is the poem relevant to our world? What did you learn from it? [4]

Ans. This poem is relevant to the world we live in which is troubled with prejudice and hatred. The world is divided on the basis of religion class and race, all ideas which are highlighted in the poem. Wars are rampant, being fought for causes such as above. People are suffering and nobody wants to help. The rich turn a blind eye to the poor who resent the rich for their wealth and comfort. There is war between people of different religions and the same religion too has different sects and beliefs. The world is divided on the basis of race. Such prejudice based on race and colour still exists.

From the poem we need to remember that our differences are man-made and in the face of survival especially we need to set our prejudices aside and be human and have empathy for others.

1 Q. What are the poetic devices (figurative language) in the poem? How do they contribute to the meaning/how do they effect the poem?

Ans. James Patrick Kinney uses diction, figurative language, and rhyme to project his point that prejudices control people's lives and actions.

The line that Kinney starts his poem with is "six humans trapped by happenstance". His diction in this line is very important to the overall theme of the poem. By saying "six humans", it is almost as if he is talking about all humans. If he would have said "people" then we might have different associations with the words. Another curious use of diction is by saying "trapped in happenstance". Happenstance means an event that might have been arranged although it is accidental. This use of diction is important because by saying that it is accidental, yet almost seems arranged, gives the reader a sense that they are supposed to be there. The fact that he says they are *trapped* suggests that they do not want to be in the situation, but they cannot escape.

Figurative language plays a vital role in developing the poems theme. "Their dying fire in need of logs" literally means the fire that is keeping them warm, but also stands as a metaphor for their sinful souls. They are committing sins such as racism, envy, arrogance, revenge, and greed. By saying they need to add logs to the fire suggest that they need to help out someone other than themselves, or they will "freeze" to death. Opening up and not being greedy will warm there souls and will save them, unfortunately it has overcome them and is an impossibility.

The rhyme of the poems sets up an easy read. This allows for your eyes to simply guide and take in Kinney's