

### Poem-3 A Thing of Beauty

**-John Keats**

#### **Gist of the poem:**

- The poem is a tribute to beauty.
- The poet says that a thing of beauty is a source of joy for ever.
- The grace of beauty increases with the passage of time.
- It would never lose its worth.
- Beauty is like a place of solace and comfort, providing quiet rest, sweet dreams, health and relaxation.
- On every new day, we fabricate fresh flowery links which bind us to the beautiful earth.
- This is despite the depression, lack of noble values, gloom, unhealthy experiences and darkish regimen which we undergo every day.
- In the midst of all these negatives, there is always some beautiful thing in our life, which dispels the darkness in our lives.
- The poet specifies a few stock objects of beauty.
- They are the sun, the moon, a shady area providing protection from heat to the simple sheep, the daffodils and the green world they live in, cool streams which give relief from the hot season and a clearing in the middle of a forest, rich with scented flowers.
- Equally beautiful are the lives of great men who have passed away and stories and legends which we have heard or read. Such things are an endless source of immortality.

Read the following lines and answer the questions that follow:

1. “A thing of beauty is a joy forever

Its loveliness increases, it will never

Pass into nothingness; but will keep.....

.....bind us to the earth.”

1. What pleasure do we derive from a beautiful thing?

2. How does the poet prove that the value of a beautiful thing is permanent?

3. What does ‘wreathing flowery bands’ mean?

4. How does a thing of beauty keep a quiet bower for us?

Answers:

1. A thing of beauty boosts our spirits and gives us joy. It has a soothing impact on our mind.
2. The value of a thing of beauty is eternal. It is never exhausted. It will never fail to rejuvenate us when we feel the direst need.
3. We can never alienate ourselves from nature. Every day, we create fresh bonds with the beautiful things on the earth.
4. Our lives are rife with pain, worry and suffering. A thing of beauty comes as a pleasant interlude, refreshing and soothing us. Whenever we want to be emotionally refreshed, the thing of beauty is ready at hand.

II. “For simple sheep; and such are daffodils

With the green world they live in;.....

.....fountain of immortal drink.”

1. List some beautiful things the poet has mentioned.
2. How are the ‘mighty dead’ immortalized?
3. Comment on the concluding lines of the poem.

Answers:

1. Some beautiful things that the poet speaks of are daffodils, streams, mid-forest ferns, lives of great men and literature.
2. The lives of great men have an enchanting beauty about them. This beauty has immortalized them and imprinted their presence in history.
3. The poet concludes that things of beauty have the boon to immortalize us. Unlike temporal things, the joy given by beautiful things are eternal.

### **Questions for practice:**

1. “A thing of beauty is a joy forever  
Its loveliness increases, it will never  
Pass into nothingness; but will keep  
a bower quiet for us, and a sleep

full of sweet dreams, and health, and quiet breathing  
Therefore, on every morrow, are we wreathing  
flowery band to bind us to the earth."

- a. What is the special virtue of a beautiful thing?
- b. How does it bless us?
- c. Explain the expression "A bower quiet for us".
- d. What do we do everyday?

2. "the mid forest brake,  
rich with a sprinkling of fair musk-rose  
blooms;and such too is the grandeur of the  
dooms who have imagined for the mighty  
dead; All lovely tales that we have heard or  
read;An endless fountain of immortal drink,  
Pouring unto us from the heaven's brink."

- a. What do you mean by 'brake'? Where does it grow? What makes it all the more beautiful?
- b What do you mean by 'the grandeur of the dooms'?
- c. "All lovely tales that we have heard or read" Explain
- d. What is the source of the beauty of nature? What is its effect on us?

3. "Some shape of beauty moves away  
the pall from our dark spirits. Such the  
sun, the moon, trees old, and young,  
sprouting a shady boonfor simple sheep;  
and such are daffodils with green world  
they live in; and clear rillsthat for  
themselves a cooling covert make'against  
the hot season; the mid forest brake rich  
with a sprinkling of fair musk-rose blooms"

- a. What type of beauty and its effect are mentioned here ?
- b. What sprouts a shady boon for sheep and how?

- c. How do 'daffodils' and rills enrich the environment?
- d. What makes the mid-forest brake rich?

IV. Short answer type questions: (30-40 words)

- 1. How do things of beauty bind us to the earth?  
Our lives are marred by pain and suffering. Things of joy will revitalize our lives.  
Therefore we glue ourselves to the earth which is abundant in such beautiful things.
- 2. How does the loveliness of a thing of beauty increase?  
Things of beauty like nature, art and literature are deep bountiful. The deeper we dive into this world, the more we realize their immortality perennial character. They can never be wiped out from the face of the earth.

V. Extra questions: (unsolved)

- 1. How is the world of nature different from that of men?
- 2. List some beautiful things that give us eternal joy.