

## A THING OF BEAUTY

JOHN KEATS

**SUMMARY:** A Thing of Beauty is about appreciating anything and everything around us. Anything that looks beautiful is a source of joy for us. A beautiful thing becomes more attractive as we keep enjoying it. The more we look closely at its beauty, the more we discover its stunning features. We never forget a thing of beauty as its memory is etched into our minds due to the joy and loveliness received from it. The aftereffect of a beautiful thing is that it will always prove to be a source of happiness and peace, just like a shade under a tree or a sleep full of sweet dreams. Our lives, as a consequence, will be full of good health and peace.

Humans are connected to nature in a very close way. We participate in various earthly activities to keep ourselves attached to mother nature. Bonding with nature around us has been compared to wreathing flowery bands. There are many negative things in our lives, like dealing with hopelessness, encountering people who are not kind or compassionate by nature and facing various immoral and inhuman activities that lessen our belief in humanity. Despite acknowledging the presence of these things, a beautiful thing never fails to uplift our moods. It makes us forget our worries and troubles away.

We can find beauty anywhere if we want to see it. We can find it in ordinary things around us like the sun, the moon, trees or something as simple as a shade for sheep. The poet gives more examples to show the richness of beauty around us, like flowers, rills and the mid-forest brake. He also points out that we can find beauty in places where we generally do not look, like the reasons and circumstances behind the deaths of mighty heroes and warriors. Beauty exists in intangible things like the stories that we read or hear.

The poet urges us to see the immense reserve of beauty around us. He calls it an ‘endless fountain of immortal drink’: ‘endless’ because sources of beauty are limitless and ‘immortal’ to denote the effect of beauty on our minds. The memory of a beautiful experience is forever. It never dies. We are blessed to experience beauty in all forms around us. A direct reference to ‘heaven’ has been made to show that God has provided us with many sources of beauty.

### MCOs

Question1. Who is the poet of A think of beauty?

1. John Updike
2. William Blakes
3. William Wordsworth
4. **John Keats**

Question2. What are the things of beauty mentioned in the poem?

1. Sun and moon
2. Young trees and streams
3. Flowers
4. **All of these**

Question3. Which things cause suffering to human beings?

1. **Lack of virtues and inhuman acts**
2. withering flowers
3. blooming flowers
4. flowing streams

Question4. How is a thing of beauty joy forever?

1. Because it is beautiful
2. because it is nature
3. because it is joyful
4. **because its beauty never ends and leaves a lasting impact**

Question5. What is the message of the poem?

1. beauty never fades
2. beauty lifts spirits high
3. beauty is a joy forever
4. **All of these**

Question6. What does a thing of beauty do for us?

1. Gives hope
2. Gives happiness
3. Removes pain and suffering
4. **All of these**

Question7. What is the endless fountain and what is its effect?

1. Moving streams
2. the sunlight
3. **a thing of beauty is endless fountain and it give happiest**
4. None of these

Question8. What does a thing beauty is a joy forever mean?

1. Joy is in memory
2. joy is precious
3. joy is not sold
4. **it will keep giving happiness for a longer time**

Question9. What is beauty in Keats' opinion ?

1. a suffering
2. A cause of suffering
3. A cause of pain
4. **A joy forever**

Question10. How does a thing of beauty provide shelter and comfort?

1. by giving a sense of joy and happiness
2. by removing pain
3. by removing suffering
4. **All of these**

Question11. Whose loveliness will keep on increasing?

1. of rivers
2. of mountain
3. of nature
4. **of all beautiful things**

Question12. Write the phrase which means it immortal?

1. it will never fade
2. it will never pass into nothingness
3. **it will never cease**
4. it will keep giving happiness for a longer time

Question13. What is a bower?

1. A river
2. A stream
3. A big tree
4. **A shady tree**

Question14. What are mighty dead in the poem?

1. Dead people
2. Dead relative
3. Dead plants
4. **Greet respect worthy ancestors especially dead soldiers**

Question15. Why are our spirits referred as dark?

1. Because of dark clouds
2. because of spirits around
3. because of shady trees
4. **because of sadness and disappointments**

### **SHORT ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS**

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

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:

**1. What are the flowery bands that bind us to the earth?**

**2. What message do the above lines convey?**

**Answer:**

1. The flowery band that binds us to earth is beauty in one shape or the other. It removes all sufferings and sorrow that covers our mind and spirit. There is disappointment and dejection all around but the presence of some objects of beauty removes this sadness from our hearts.

2. There are many things that bring us troubles and sufferings. The message conveyed in these lines is that the natural beauty of objects around us takes away the suffering from our sorrowful hearts.

Some beautiful shape or any object of beauty removes the pall of gloom from our mind and spirit.

**Question 2. According to Keats, what makes man love life in spite of all its problems and miseries?**

Answer: In spite of all the problems and miseries that make man's life gloomy and cause him suffering and pain, he does not cease to love life because a thing of beauty removes all the sadness that covers his spirit. The beautiful things of nature make life sweet and happy.

**Question 3. What image does Keats use to describe the beautiful bounty of the earth?**

Answer: Keats uses the image of a perennial fountain that constantly pours forth bounties on the earth in the form of an immortal drink from the heavens into our hearts. The beauty of the sun, the moon, the trees, the daffodils and clear rivers are reflections of the beautiful bounties God has blessed us with.

**Question 4. What makes human beings love life in spite of troubles and sufferings?**

Answer: It is the occasional phases of joy and happiness that make life beautiful and make human beings love life in spite of troubles and sufferings. Natural beauty in its various forms, like the clear rivers, the gurgling brooks and forest vegetation, motivates us to live life and moves away the pall from our dark spirits.

**Question 5. Mention any two 'things of beauty' that Keats has described in his poem. How do they make us joyful?**

Answer: According to Keats every small or big thing of nature is a thing of beauty and a source of pleasure. The sun, the moon, the trees and daffodil flowers are all things of beauty. So are the small streams with clear water, mass of ferns and the blooming musk roses.

**Question 6. Mention any two things which, according to Keats, give us pain and suffering.**

Answer: According to Keats man suffers from pain and suffering due to the inhuman dearth of noble natures on earth and due to the inhuman and hostile attitude that makes our days sad and darkens our ways with distress and wretchedness.

**Question 7. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:**

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

- 1. List any two things of beauty mentioned above.**
- 2. What does the phrase, 'pass into nothingness' mean?**
- 3. What are the effects of beautiful things on man's spirit?**

Answer:

1. The things of beauty mentioned above include a quiet bower, peaceful sleep and quiet breathing.
2. The phrase 'pass into nothingness' means it will never cease to exist but will continue to have a lasting impression.
3. Beautiful things leave a lasting impression on man's spirit. They give him great joy and happiness and also help him to gain inner peace and calm.

**Question 8. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:**

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:

- 1. What are the flowery bands that bind us to the earth?**
- 2. What message do the above lines convey?**

Answer:

1. The flowery band that binds us to earth is beauty in one shape or the other. It removes all sufferings and sorrow that covers our mind and spirit. There is disappointment and dejection all around but the presence of some objects of beauty removes this sadness from our hearts.
2. There are many things that bring us troubles and sufferings. The message conveyed in these lines is that the natural beauty of objects around us takes away the suffering from our sorrowful hearts. Some beautiful shape or any object of beauty removes the pall of gloom from our mind and spirit.

**Question 9. Why and how is grandeur associated with the mighty dead?**

Answer: Grandeur is associated with the mighty dead because of their grand deeds and achievements. Their achievements make their lives extraordinary. Therefore, the grandeur of the mighty dead is a thing of beauty that is a source of inspiration for other.

**Question 10. What is the message of the poem, 'A Thing of Beauty'?**

Answer: John Keats was a worshipper of beauty and he saw it as an everlasting source of joy and happiness. Through his poem he conveys that a thing of beauty removes the pall of sadness and sorrow and gives us joy and pleasure. The beauty of a thing goes on increasing and never passes into nothingness.

**Question 11. How is a thing of beauty a joy forever?**

Answer: A thing of beauty is a joy forever because it gives us eternal and everlasting happiness and leaves such an impact in our mind that we are able to relive the wonderful feeling we get from it each time we think about it. It never fades into nothingness, in fact its loveliness increases with each passing moment.

**Question 12. Why is 'grandeur' associated with the 'mighty dead'?**

Answer: Grandeur is associated with the mighty dead because of their grand deeds and achievements. Their achievements make their lives extraordinary. Therefore, the grandeur of the mighty dead is a thing of beauty that is a source of inspiration for other.

**Question 13. What makes human beings love life in spite of troubles and sufferings?**

Answer: It is the occasional phases of joy and happiness that make life beautiful and make human beings love life in spite of troubles and sufferings. Natural beauty in its various forms, like the clear rivers, the gurgling brooks and forest vegetation, motivates us to live life and moves away the pall from our dark spirits.

**Question 14. Describe any three things of beauty mentioned in the poem, 'A Thing of Beauty'.**

Answer: The poet sees beauty in various natural things. He sees simple and scenic beauty in the image of the sun, the moon, the trees, the sheep, the green pastures and the clear water of the small streams. All these things of beauty are a constant source of joy for us.

**Question 15. Why does a thing of beauty never pass into nothingness?**

Answer: The joy provided by a thing of beauty is ever-lasting. It leaves an indelible imprint on our mind. Its loveliness never fades away and so it does not pass into nothingness. It increases manifold each time we think about it and thus we are forever able to relive the joyful experience.

**Question 16. Mention any two things of beauty that Keats talks of in his poem and explain how they influence us.**

Answer: The two things of beauty that influence us are the lush green surroundings of meadows and pastures that provide life to all living beings and the simple lambs and sheep that Keats envisions as the embodiments of serene and divine beauty.

**Question 17. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:**

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:

- 1. What are we doing everyday?**
- 2. Which evil things do we possess and suffer from?**
- 3. What are the circumstances that contribute towards making humans unhappy and disillusioned with life?**

Answer:

1. Every day we are wreathing a flowery band which binds us to the earth and enables us to live life despite the dejection that surrounds us. We are looking for lovely things around us and establishing a close bond with the earth and nature.
2. We suffer from selfishness and self-centredness due to which there is dearth of noble souls on earth.
3. Man becomes unhappy and disillusioned because he suffers from pain and hopelessness at various junctures in life. Also the lack of nobility in human beings and gloomy days make him unhappy.

**Question 18. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:**

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,



1. What is 'morrow'?
2. Why do we need 'a flowery band'?
3. What is inhuman in life?

Answer:

1. 'Morrow' means the next day.
2. Everyday we are wreathing a flowery band because it binds us to earth and makes us live our life despite the dejection that surrounds us.
3. Man's self-centred nature and his inability to rise above pettiness is inhuman in life.

**Question 19. What does Keats consider an endless fountain of immortal drink and why does he call its drink immortal?**

Answer: Keats considers beauty, in all its forms, which is God's greatest gift to man as an endless fountain of immortal drink. He calls it immortal because the beauty bestowed by God is everlasting and perennial and men can bask in its glory forever.

**Question 20. According to Keats, what spreads the pall of despondence over our dark spirits? How is it removed?**

Answer: According to Keats, suffering and pain caused by man's malice and his evil ways spreads the pall of despondence over our dark spirits. Man lacks noble qualities and his hostile and inhuman nature makes the world gloomy. This can be removed by some shape of beauty that is a source of constant joy.