

Exam Practice

Extract Based Questions

Read the following extracts carefully and answer the questions that follow.

1 As she used in years ago,
To regard the darling dreamers
Ere she left them till the dawn:
O! I feel her fond look on me
As I list to this refrain

- (i) These lines have been taken from
 - (a) Wind
 - (b) Rain on the Roof
 - (c) The Road not Taken
 - (d) The Snake Trying
- (ii) 'Darling dreamers' in the extract refers to
 - (a) the poet and his siblings.
 - (b) the poet and his friends.
 - (c) the poet and his classmates.
 - (d) the poet and his neighbours.
- (iii) In the given lines, the poet is feeling
 - (a) sorrowful
 - (b) relaxed
 - (c) nostalgic
 - (d) regretful

- (iv) The sound reminds the poet of
- (v) Which sound is the poet listening to?

Ans. (i) (b) Rain on the Roof
(ii) (a) the poet and his siblings.
(iii) (c) nostalgic
(iv) his childhood
(v) The poet is listening to the sound of the rain.

2 When the humid shadows hover
Over all the starry spheres,
And the melancholy darkness
Gently weeps in rainy tears,

- (i) What time of the day is discussed in the given passage?
 - (a) Early morning
 - (b) Afternoon
 - (c) Night
 - (d) None of the above
- (ii) The word 'hover' does not correspond with
 - (a) linger
 - (b) float
 - (c) stable
 - (d) movement

- (iii) Where is the poet when it is raining?

- (a) In his cottage
- (b) In his school
- (c) In his office
- (d) In his hostel

- (iv) The rhyme of the given stanza is

- (v) Why is the 'melancholy darkness weeping'?

Ans. (i) (c) Night

- (ii) (d) movement

- (iii) (a) In his cottage

- (iv) abcb

- (v) The 'melancholy darkness' is 'weeping' because it is dark all around and because it is raining.

3 Every tinkle on the shingles
Has an echo in the heart;
And a thousand dreamy fancies
Into busy being start,

- (i) What does 'tinkle' mean?

- (a) The sound of bell
- (b) The shining of stars
- (c) The sound of rain falling
- (d) The beautiful memories

- (ii) How does the heart echo?

- (a) With sound sleep
- (b) With the rain
- (c) With peace and happiness
- (d) All of the above

- (iii) How does the poet's mind get busy?

- (a) With memories
- (b) With dreams
- (c) With music
- (d) With peace

- (iv) What does 'dreamy fancies' mean?

- (v) Which 'dreamy fancy' is dearest to the poet?

Ans. (i) (c) The sound of rain falling

- (ii) (b) With the rain

- (iii) (a) With memories

- (iv) Old memories

- (v) The 'dreamy fancy' of his mother is dearest to the poet.

Short Answer (SA) Type Questions

1 How does the poet describe the movement before rain?

Ans. Before the rain the dark wet shadows of clouds hover (Over) the sky. The stars become spheres as they are covered by these clouds. There is darkness all around and atmosphere becomes very gloomy and sad.

2 What does the poet want to convey when he says 'when the humid shadows hover over all the starry spheres'?

Ans. The poet wants to convey that when the dark rain clouds (humid shadows) cover the whole sky so that the stars (starry spheres) are not visible, it is a sign that rain is going to start. The poet compares darkness with sadness or these humid clouds resulting in rain.

3 What does 'melancholy darkness' (in the poem 'Rain on the Roof') mean and what does it do?

Ans. In the phrase 'melancholy darkness' the poet has associated the feelings of sadness and gloom to the darkness that result due to the clouds. Just like the feeling of sorrow that leads to tears, the dark rain clouds causes rain. The lack of sunshine or hope leads to rain or sadness.

4 What does the poet consider 'a bliss'?

Ans. The poet considers to listen to the sound of the falling of rain as a bliss. When it rains, the poet lies in his cosy bed in a cottage, listening to the melody of nature. He listens to the pleasant pattering sound of the rain on the roof of the cottage.

5 When do the 'thousand dreamy fancies' begin in the poet's heart?

Ans. The 'thousand dreamy fancies' begin in the poet's heart when the sound of the rain falling on the roof echoes in his heart. He responds to this echo by dreaming fanciful dreams and recollecting memories of the past.

6 What does the poet dream of?

Ans. While listening to the soft sound of rain falling on the roof, the poet thought of many images and memories. From these, the poet dreamt of the memory of his mother. He recollects his childhood when his mother used to lovingly look at him and his siblings while they used to sleep and dream.

7 When does the poet remember his mother? What does it show about him?

Ans. The poet remembers his mother when he listens to the sound of the rain falling on the roof. He feels her fond look on him.

It shows that the poet was very fond of his mother. He remembers how she used to see whether he and his siblings are properly tucked or not.

8 What kind of refrain is the poet referring to when he says, 'As I list to this refrain'?

Ans. The refrain the poet is referring to is the repeated pattering sound of the rain on the tiled roof of his cottage. The falling showers create a music or raindrops fall rhythmically.

Long Answer (LA) Type Questions

1 The 'Rain on the Roof' brings out how rain soothes everyone by its phenomenon. Elaborate.

Ans. It is true to say that the 'Rain on the Roof' brings out the soothing effect of rain. Rain is always a source of happiness and pleasure. Before rain, the weather is hot and humid. But when it rain, it heals not only the humans who suffer from the hot climate but also the plants and animals.

In the poem 'Rain on the Roof' the poet highlights this soothing and healing quality of

nature. The poet is relaxing on his bed in his room in a cottage when the rain starts falling. The sound of the rain falling on the cottage appeals to the poet. The music creates echoes in his heart. It fills the poet with many fond memories that come into his mind.

Out of these 'dreamy fancies', the poet can identify a memory of his childhood that is associated with his mother. He can remember the loving looks of his mother when he and his siblings used to sleep. Rain is a healing phenomenon of the nature. Thus, the coming of rain is always blissful and pleasant.

2 The poet of 'Rain on the Roof' was a home loving, family loving and nature loving person who shows a deep attachment to his mother. Justify with examples from the poem.

Ans. The poet of 'Rain on the Roof' was indeed a home loving, family loving and a nature loving person who showed a deep attachment to his mother. In the poem, the poet is lying on his bed in his room of the cottage while it's raining.

The musical sound of the rain falling on the tiled roof along with his relaxing posture is a bliss for him. This shows that the poet was a home loving

person. Further, cottages are generally found in countryside rural region wherein nature is at its best, with few concrete building. Such areas are close to nature. Hence, the poet relaxing in such a region shows him to be a nature loving person.

The poet while listening to the rain, recollects some of his fondest memories. Out of these, he remembers his mother who used to look at him while he and his siblings used to sleep.

Even today, he remember that look of love of his mother. This shows that the poet was a family loving man who loved his mother very much.