

A Thing of Beauty (Poetry)

1. Read the following extracts and answer the questions. (2024)

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.

(i) Which of the following themes is best represented in the given extract ?

- (A) Beauty provides security and peace.
- (B) Beauty lies in possession of expensive things.
- (C) Beauty is synonymous with power and riches.
- (D) Beauty lies in our rich heritage and palaces and temples.

Ans. (A) Beauty provides security and peace.

(ii) Complete the following sentence appropriately.

A thing of beauty never passes into nothingness because it is _____.

Ans. eternal/ joy forever/ everlasting

(iii) 'Quiet bower' means a pleasant, shady, quiet place under trees or in the woods. This creates a sense of _____ .

Ans. peace and harmony / good health / sweet dreams / quiet breathing

(iv) State whether the given statement is True or False with reference to the extract.

The quality of a thing ensures that its beauty lasts forever.

Ans. True

(v) Based on the rhyme scheme in lines 3 and 4 of the given extract, which word will rhyme with them?

- (A) please
- (B) sweep
- (C) help
- (D) self

Ans. (B) sweep

(vi) The use of the word health in the extract suggests that beautiful things will give us a happier and more wholesome life. It creates a powerful image of _____.

- (A) rejuvenation
- (B) attachment
- (C) long life
- (D) eternity

Ans. (A) rejuvenation

2. Imagine you are John Keats, the poet of 'A Thing of Beauty'. What advice might you offer to Robert Frost, the poet of 'A Roadside Stand' in the context of his "The sadness that lurks near the open window' ? Pen down your advice in a letter to Frost on how to deal with sadness. You may begin this way: (2024)

Dear Robert,

I have recently read your poem 'A Roadside Stand' and

You may end this way:

Despite the fact that our lives are full of sorrow and suffering, the beautiful things around us give us the strength to endure the sadness of life.

Warmly

John Keats

Ans.

- life is full of sorrow and sufferings
- life has a cycle of ups and downs
- inspite of despondence, inhuman dearth of noble nature, gloomy ways of life
- nature provides solace
- enjoy the beautiful mountain scene / country side / village land / natural and fresh products
- things of beauty around us provide us eternal joy

- being close to nature brings peace and harmony
- should not lose hope
- have an optimistic view of life

Previous Years' CBSE Board Questions

SA I (2 marks)

1. In the poem "A Thing of Beauty", how is grandeur connected with the mighty dead? (2023)
2. What are the things of beauty that the poet mentions in the poem 'A Thing of Beauty'? (2022 C)
3. What makes human beings love life in spite of troubles and sufferings? (Delhi 2015, 2022)
4. How does a thing of beauty provide shelter and comfort? (Term II, 2021-22)

SA II (3 marks)

5. In the hot season, how do man and beast get comfort? (Delhi 2017)
6. What does a thing of beauty do for us? (Delhi 2015)
7. Mention any four things of beauty that add joy to our life. (AI 2015)
8. Mention any two things which cause pain and suffering. (AI 2015)
9. Which objects of nature does Keats mention as sources of joy in his poem, 'A Thing of Beauty'? (AI 2015)
10. Life is full of sorrows. What brings joy in it? (Foreign 2015)
11. How do we get joy from life which is otherwise full of sorrows? (Foreign 2015)

SA III (4 marks)

12. What makes a thing of beauty a joy forever? (2022 C)
13. What according to Keats are things of beauty? What is their significance in our lives? (2022)

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

14. And such too is the grandeur of the dooms

We 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) Which two things of beauty are mentioned in these lines?
- (b) Why are the 'lovely tales' called an endless fountain?
- (c) Where is this fountain situated?
- (d) Explain: 'grandeur of the dooms' (2020)

15. and clear rills

That for themselves a cooling covert make
'Gainst the hot season; the mid forest brake, Rich
with the sprinkling of fair musk-rose blooms;

- (a) Identify the poem and the poet.
- (b) What is the role of the clear rills?
- (c) How has the mid forest brake become rich?
- (d) Name the figure of speech in 'cooling covert.' (2018)

16. 'It's 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.

- (a) Whose loveliness will keep on increasing?
- (b) Identify the phrase which says that 'it' is immortal.
- (c) What is a 'bower'?
- (d) Why do we need sweet dreams, health and quiet breathing in our lives?

(Delhi 2016)

17. And such too is the grandeur of the dooms

We have imagined for the mighty dead;
All lovely tales that we have heard or read;
An endless fountain of immortal drink

- (a) Who are the 'mighty dead'?
- (b) What have we done for them?
- (c) What metaphor has been used for 'lovely tales'?
- (d) How is the grandeur of the dooms related to the theme of the poem?

(Foreign 2016)

18. And such too is the grandeur of the dooms

We 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) Name the poem.
- (b) Who are the 'mighty dead' referred to here?
- (c) What is the endless fountain of immortal drink?
- (d) What does the word, 'brink' mean?

(Delhi 2015C)

19. Spite of despondence, of the inhuman dearth of

noble natures, of the gloomy days,

Of all the unhealthy and queer darkened ways

Made for our searching: yes, in spite of all,

Some shape of beauty moves away the pall

From our dark spirits.

- (a) Name the poem.
- (b) Give one cause of human suffering.
- (c) What moves away the pall from our lives.
- (d) What does the word 'gloomy' mean?

(AI 2015C)

20. All lovely tales that we have heard or read;

An endless fountain of immortal drink.

Pouring onto us from the heaven's brink.

- (a) Name the poem and the poet.

(b) What is the thing of beauty mentioned in these lines?

(c) What image does the poet use in these lines? (Delhi 2014)

21. 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: yes, in spite of all,

Some shape of beauty moves away the pall

From our dark spirits.

(a) Name the poem and the poet.

(b) Why are we 'despondent'?

(c) What removes 'the pall from our dark spirits'? (AI 2014)

22. Some shape of beauty moves away the pall from our dark spirits.

(a) How does beauty help us when we are burdened with grief?

(b) Explain : "Some shape of beauty".

(c) Identify the figure of speech used in the above lines. (AI 2014C)

LA II (6 marks)

23. Attempt ANY ONE of two extracts given.

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

and breathing

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 of our searching.

(i) Keats defined beauty as

(a) transient

(b) eternal

(c) illusionary

(d) short lived

(ii) 'will keep a bower quiet for us' means all of the following EXCEPT

(a) create a peaceful, shady place

(b) provide a shelter

(c) will decrease noise pollution

(d) nature's canopy

(iii) On the basis of the extract choose the correct option with reference to the two statements given below.

1. Beautiful things uplift the soul

2. Beauty is ever-changing

(a) 1 can be inferred from the extract but 2 cannot

(b) 2 can be inferred from the extract but 1 cannot

(c) both 1 and 2 can be inferred from the extract

(d) both 1 and 2 cannot be inferred from the extract

(iv) The things that cause unhappiness are

(1) lack of noble nature

(2) old tunes

(3) dull days

(4) calm mind

(5) a flowery band

(6) strong relationship

Choose the most appropriate option

(a) (1) and (2)

(b) (1) and (3)

(c) (4) and (5)

(d) (3) and (6)

(v) Complete the analogy. Do not repeat from used example

flowery band: metaphor :: alliteration

(vi) According to the poet 'every morrow' we are _____.

(2023)

CBSE Sample Questions

SA I (2 marks)

1. Rationalise why Keats uses the metaphor 'an endless fountain of immortal drink' in his poem 'A Thing of Beauty'? (Term II, 2021-22)

SA III (4 marks)

2. How does Keats' poem, 'A Thing of Beauty' appeal richly to the senses, stimulating the reader's inner sight as well as the sense of touch and smell? Write your answer in about 120-150 words.

(Term II, 2021-22)

LA II (6 marks)

3. Read the given extracts to attempt the questions with reference to context.

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

A flowery band to bind us to the earth

- (i) Choose the option that displays the same poetic device as used in the first line of the extract.

- (a) I'm as happy as I can be.
- (b) Life is a roller coaster ride.
- (c) Nature is God's gift to us.
- (d) The dazzling divas enchanted all.

- (ii) What does the phrase 'a bower quiet' indicate?

- (a) serenity
- (b) morality
- (c) superiority
- (d) diversity

- (iii) The benefits of a thing of beauty for humans include _____.

- (i) healthy body
- (ii) calm mind
- (iii) struggle-free life
- (iv) better relationships

(v) hope to carry on

Choose the most appropriate option.

(a) Only (v)

(b) (i), (ii) and (v)

(c) (i), (iii) and (iv)

(d) (ii) and (iv)

(iv) Answer in ONE word. When the poet says that 'a thing of beauty' will never pass into nothingness, he means that it is _____.

(v) On the basis of the extract, choose the correct option with reference to the two statements given below.

(1) We are surrounded by beautiful things.

(2) Beautiful things provide us joy.

(a) (1) can be inferred from the extract but (2) cannot.

(b) (2) can be inferred from the extract but (1) cannot.

(c) Both (1) and (2) can be inferred from the extract.

(d) (2) is the reason for (1) and can be inferred from the extract.

(vi) Which of the following is an apt title for the extract?

(a) Full to the Brim with Joy

(b) Beauty Galore

(c) Live Life King Size

(d) Hope Floats

ANSWERS

Previous Years' CBSE Board Questions

1. The 'grandeur' of the 'mighty dead' lies in their noble deeds. They have left behind a beautiful legacy of their brave acts. Their selfless sacrifice for their country and deeds for the betterment of humanity still continue to inspire us.
2. According to the poet, there are numerous things of beauty in nature. To the poet, everything in nature is a thing of beauty and a source of joy. The sun, moon, old and young trees, daffodils, clear streams of rivers, musk-roses, ferns, etc. are all things of beauty that add joy to our life.
- 3.

Ans 4) John Keats is a romantic poet who expresses that love of man and nature is indestructible and after all such troubles, malice, disappointment, dejection and sufferings they can lose life and enjoy every bit of it with so elation and ecstasy with some shape of natural loveliness which are ultimate gifts of God to mankind, which create indelible impression on us, they remove fall of despondence and let us enjoy its beauty & helps us connecting with the earth away from this materialistic world

[Topper's Answer, 2022]

4. A thing of beauty is present in nature and brings us eternal joy whenever we need it. It keeps a quiet bower for us to take shelter in and comforts us so as to provide us a sound sleep full of sweet dreams, health and quiet breathing. A thing of beauty present in nature also comforts us by removing the gloom and misery from our lives.
5. In the hot season, man and beast get comfort by taking shelter under the shade of the trees, or being one with absorbing nature and the coolness it provides. The things of beauty, which nature offers are simple. However, they have a calming effect on every living being.
6. A thing of beauty uplifts one's mood and provides eternal joy. It makes life worth living in spite of despondence, gloomy days, etc. because its loveliness keeps on increasing and never fades away.
7. The sun, clear rills, the mid forest brake and the grandeur of the doom are four of the innumerable things of beauty that add joy to our life.

8. Despondence and lack of noble nature are two of the many things, which cause pain and suffering.

9. The objects of nature, which are sources of joy are the sun, the moon, trees- young and old, daffodils, sheep, forests, clear rills, the mid forest brake, musk rose, etc.

10. Life is full of sorrows. However, the beautiful things given by God give us immense joy. They bring peace and calmness to the mind. One can remove one's sorrows by admiring sights of nature.

11. Life is full of sorrows. However, the beautiful things given by God give us immense joy. They bring peace and calmness to the mind. One can remove one's sorrows by admiring sights of nature.

12. The many things of nature provide us with innumerable joy. A beautiful thing is a source of eternal joy, its attractiveness grows with the passage of time and its impact never fades away. The beauty of nature keeps us attached to this earth. We forget all our despair, of acute shortage of noble souls, of misfortunes that overtakes us to test our forbearance. Life is full of trials and tribulations and we often find ourselves in the midst of gloom. But a sight full of beauty dispels the pall of sadness from our spirits making room for hope and optimism.

13.

Ans 2) John Keats was a romantic poet, who tries to adore beauty of nature in his poems. For him, Things of beauty are the eternal source of happiness & edification, it casts an indivisible impression on human mind & psyche and it keeps increasing in manifold with phases of time. The sun, the moon, the old & young trees, the clear rills, the daffodil flower & musk-rose blossoms are all are things of beauty in aesthetic sense as they remove sadness, grief from our life and enlighten it with fun. It The house provides us sleep full of sweet dreams, physical fitness and spirit breathing whereas rills provide us our eyes cooling in hot & tipid summer. The poet also emphasizes on spiritual beauty that is the tales & legends, we heard of our ancestor, who taught us bravery and make our day, how they perpetuated their memory till poor prosperity with their heroic deed & resource sacrifice & they attained glory in this death as it was early anticipated & are slightly in.

14. (a) Mighty warriors and their stories of sacrifices.

(b) Lovely tales are called an endless fountain because stories never die, they evolve and get decorated with time and generations.

(c) The fountain is in heaven's brink.

(d) 'Grandeur of the dooms' means the melancholic beauty in tragic stories of heroism.

15. (a) The name of the poem is 'A Thing of Beauty' and the poet is John Keats.

(b) The clear rills along with the bushes and trees make a cool and safe place for the animals, such as a simple sheep, to hide from the heat of the weather.

(c) The mid forest brake become rich with the intoxicating fragrance of the rose bloom, which fills the air.

(d) Alliteration

16. (a) The loveliness of a thing of beauty will keep on increasing.

(b) 'Never pass into nothingness.'

(c) A pleasant, shady place under a tree is called bower.

(d) We need sweet dreams, health and quiet breathing in our lives to bear the problems of life, to remove the gloom and to uplift the mood.

17. (a) The 'mighty dead' are all the great men.

(b) We have heard and read lovely heroic tales about their grandeur.

(c) The metaphor used for 'Lovely tales' is an endless fountain of immortal drink.

(d) The grandeur of the dooms is everlasting beauty; one can find beauty even in death.

18. (a) The name of the poem is 'A Thing of Beauty'.

(b) Here, the 'mighty dead' refers to the great people of the world, the people we respect and/or our ancestors as well.

(c) The endless fountain of immortal drink is all the wonderful tales told to us when we were children and all the great books read by us.

(d) The word 'brink' means the extreme edge at the top.

19. (a) The name of the poem is 'A Thing of Beauty'.

(b) One of the many causes of human sufferings is lack of noble nature.

(c) Anything, which we consider beautiful moves away the pall from our lives.

(d) The word gloomy means depressed or sad.

20. (a) The given lines are from the poem 'A Thing of Beauty' by John Keats.

(b) The things of beauty mentioned in the given lines are the lovely tales heard or read.

(c) In these lines, the poet uses the image of 'an endless fountain of immortal drink' to describe the beautiful bounty of the Earth.

21. (a) The lines have been taken from the poem 'A Thing of Beauty' by John Keats.

(b) We are despondent because of the unhealthy and over-darkened ways of humans and that the world lacks noble people.

(c) According to the poet, even if the world is not worth living because of the innumerable reasons that ultimately result in gloom and depression, the zeal to live a happy and content life can be derived from the sight of the beautiful bounties of nature around us. These beautiful things remove the pall from our dark spirits.

22. (a) Beauty or a thing of beauty removes all sad thoughts, has a soothing effect on our senses and lifts our spirits.

(b) 'Some shape of beauty' means anything that is beautiful in the world.

(c) Personification and metaphor.

23. (i) (b) eternal

(ii) (a) create a peaceful, shady place

(iii) (a) 1 can be inferred from the extract but 2 cannot.

(iv) (b) (1) and (3)

(v) flowery band: metaphor:: noble natures: alliteration

(vi) According to the poet 'every morrow' we are wreathing a flowery band because it binds us to the earth and makes us live our lives in spite of the sadness or despondence that surrounds us.

CBSE Sample Questions

1. Keats uses the metaphor “an endless fountain of immortal drink” to refer to the pleasure and satisfaction one gets from nature’s beauty. The things of beauty represent the immortal drink that gods had as an elixir of life. These drinks would never end and provide immortality, with the pleasure and happiness everlasting, a never-ending bliss.

2. John Keats’ poem, ‘A Thing of Beauty’ uses imagery that presents a life-like experience stimulating the sense of sight as well as touch and smell in the readers. This is evident from the word play and powerful imagery that he uses while talking of the bower, daffodils, the stream, the ferns or even the trees. While talking of the pleasures that one gets from things of beauty, Keats uses everyday nature things like the trees, the branching of the leaves, the ferns beside the stream, the moon and stars, the bright sun, and even the sheep grazing and the flowery daffodils all appeal to the senses. “A flowery band to bind us” perfectly appeals to the senses by presenting a sensory effect of the beauty of nature.

To the poet, it is everyday beauty of things that fills us with the pleasure and spirit to live amidst the negative things of life. Without such beauty, earth would be a cruel place to live and thus, the things of beauty inspire us to be alive and enjoy life.

3. (i) (b) Life is a roller coaster life.

(ii) (a) serenity

(iii) (b) (i), (ii) and (v)

(iv) immortal

(v) (b) (2) can be inferred from the extract but (1) cannot.

(vi) (d) Hope Floats