

FIRST FLIGHT  
POETRY

## Dust of Snow

### Competency Based Questions

#### ◆ Questions on the Extracts from the Poem

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

The way a crow  
Shook down on me  
The dust of snow  
From a hemlock tree  
Has given my heart  
A change of mood  
And saved some part  
Of a day I had rued.

- (a) Of the many symbols the hemlock tree represents, choose the one that Frost drew upon in all likelihood, for this poem.

Symbol of

- (i) longevity.                      (ii) togetherness.                      (iii) healing.                      (iv) protection.                      [Ans. (iii)]

- (b) Choose the option that lists the possible feelings of the poet prior to the experience shared in the poem.

1. reassured                      2. disappointed                      3. curious                      4. demotivated  
5. thankful                      6. disheartened                      7. impulsive

- (i) 1, 3 & 7                      (ii) 2, 4 & 6                      (iii) 5 & 7                      (iv) 1 & 3                      [Ans. (ii)]

- (c) Identify the option that DOES NOT use the word 'rue' correctly.

- (i) The film was a disaster and he rued his decision to act in it.  
(ii) I am sure she rued the day she listened to a fortune-teller.  
(iii) It wasn't long before I rued my disobedience and my deceit.  
(iv) Others finally rue the one who is dishonest and heartless.                      [Ans. (iv)]

- (d) Synecdoche is a poetic device that uses a part to represent the whole. e.g., That's a great set of wheels! (Set of wheels has been used for car.)

Pick an example of synecdoche from the poem.

- (i) Has given my heart/A change of mood                      (ii) The way a crow/ Shook down on me  
(iii) The dust of snow / From a hemlock tree                      (iv) And saved some part / Of a day I had rued

[Ans. (i)]

- (e) Choose the option showing the reason NOT corresponding with "... a crow / Shook down on me / The dust of snow".

- (i) The crow's landing on the branch of the tree.



- (ii) The shivering of the crow, due to the cold.
- (iii) The readjustment of position of the crow on the branch.
- (iv) The cawing of the crow hidden in the foliage.

[Ans. (iv)]

## ◆ Stand-Alone Multiple Choice Questions

### 1. What is the dust of snow?

- (i) It is the dust on the trees.
- (ii) It is the snow-flakes fallen on the hemlock tree.
- (iii) It is the flowers on the tree.
- (iv) It is the feathers of a crow.

[Ans. (ii)]

### 2. What has changed the poet's mood?

- (i) The bird flying over the tree
- (ii) The snow-flakes on the hemlock tree
- (iii) A crow shaking down on him snowflakes from the hemlock tree
- (iv) Flowers falling from the hemlock tree

[Ans. (ii)]

### 3. What is a Hemlock tree?

- (i) It is a tree with flowers.
- (ii) It is a very beautiful tree with big leaves.
- (iii) It is a poisonous plant with small white flowers.
- (iv) It is a plant with beautiful flowers.

[Ans. (iii)]

### 4. What does the 'dust of snow' that the crow shakes off a hemlock tree stand for?

- (i) The dust of snow stands for dusty winds.
- (ii) The dust of snow stands for hope and joy in the midst of sorrow.
- (iii) The dust of snow stands for dusty days.
- (iv) The dust of snow stands for gloomy times.

[Ans. (ii)]

### 5. Name the poetic device used in the line "And saved some part".

- (i) alliteration
- (ii) metaphor
- (iii) oxymoron
- (iv) simile

[Ans. (i)]

### 6. What is the emotion that the crow and the hemlock tree symbolize?

- (i) celebration
- (ii) death
- (iii) sorrow
- (iv) happiness

[Ans. (iii)]

### 7. In what mood was the poet before the dust of snow fell on him?

- (i) unpleasant
- (ii) helpless
- (iii) elated
- (iv) angry

[Ans. (i)]

### 8. What part of nature do the 'crow' and 'hemlock tree' symbolise?

- (i) joyful
- (ii) vibrant
- (iii) dark
- (iv) dull

[Ans. (ii)]

### 9. The poet says, '...of a day I had rued'. What does the word 'rued' mean?

- (i) had spent
- (ii) to ruin
- (iii) had passed
- (iv) held in regret

[Ans. (iv)]