

A painting of a young boy in a field of flowers, looking upwards. The boy is wearing a dark vest over a light-colored shirt and dark trousers. The field is filled with various flowers, including white and yellow ones. The background is a soft, hazy landscape with trees and a bright sky.

The Blind Boy (Memorization Poem)

- Colley Cibber

Notes and Solved Textbook Questions

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Chapter Summary

The blind boy

- Is blind since birth
- Cannot see light
- Can feel the warmth of the sun.
- Doesn't understand how sun is responsible for night and day.
- The boy differentiates night and day based on when he's asleep or awake.
- He doesn't understand what he is missing by not being able to see.
- He doesn't appreciate people's pity.
- He is the master (king) of the dark, sightless world.
- In reality, he is just blind.

Phrase	Figure of Speech
1. "I feel him warm, but how can he Or make it day or night?"	Personification - The sun is referred to as "he" and given living characteristics of 'making it day and night'.
2. a. "My day or night myself I make" b. "O tell your poor blind boy"	Alliteration - The sound /m/ and /b/ is repeated more than once in the same line.
3. "I am a king"	Metaphor - The boy compares his ability to be comfortable in the dark as him being the king of darkness.

Understand the Poem Questions - Solved

1. Whose voice is it in the poem?

Answer: The blind boy is the speaker's voice in the poem.

2. 'The blessings of the sight' - line 3. Can you list out a few of them?

Answer: A few blessings of sight would be:

- Seeing colours
- Seeing daylight
- Seeing obstacles in front of people

3. How does a blind person understand whether it is day or night?

Answer: For a blind person, the time they sleep becomes their time of rest and therefore 'night' and the time they're awake becomes day.

4. Read lines 13 and 14. Who is sympathizing with whom?

Answer: In lines 13 and 14 the speaker refers to 'you' which is the reader who represents the public with have sight. The blind boy has heard people with sight sighing heavily because he can't see and feeling pity for him.

5. How does the blind boy pacify himself? Quote the lines that suggest this.

Answer: The blind boy knows that he doesn't have the sense of sight. However, he has been blind since birth and therefore, he doesn't feel like he's missing out on anything. Although people talk about sunlight creating day, the boy has his own ways of doing things. It is only when people pity him that he gets frustrated. The boy has created an imaginary world of darkness where he is King and he sings here in happiness. He doesn't want to waste his time and mind space thinking about things he doesn't have.

Read and Appreciate Questions - Solved

1. Who do you think is the person addressed as 'you' in the poem?

Answer: In the poem, 'you' refers to the readers who represent people who can see.

2. Read the first stanza carefully. The tone of the speaker is one of _____ a. surprise b. curiosity c. sadness (choose the appropriate one)

Answer: b. curiosity

3. The blind boy can feel _____ of the sun. (fill in the blank)

Answer: the warmth

4. What a normal person can easily understand is almost a riddle to the blind boy. What is it?

Answer: How sunlight is responsible for creating day is easily understood by a person with sight, but it can be confusing for a blind person.

5. Identify the rhyme scheme of the poem.

Answer: The rhyme scheme of the poem is

1st stanza - a b a b

2nd stanza - c b c b

3rd stanza - d e d e

4th stanza - f g f g

5th stanza - h b h b

6. Match the following and frame appropriate sentences for each phrase thus matched.

Answer:

blessings of
 cheers of
 talk of

wondrous things
 sight
 mind

Answer:

blessings of - sight

talk of - wondrous things

cheers of - mind

7. ಇರುವುದನು ನೆನೆದು

ಬಾರೆನೆಂಬುದನು ಬಿಡು

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Read the lines from a poem by D.V.G. Does the poem "The Blind Boy" reflect the same idea? Discuss it in the class.

Answer: The literal translation of the Kanna poem is -

Line 1: We remember and appreciate what we possess.

Line 2: We need to forget that which we don't possess.

Line 3: This is the way to happiness.

The above lines match the message of the poem 'The Blind Boy'. In the poem, the Blind Boy talks about how he doesn't feel deprived of the power of sight since he's

never had that skill. He doesn't feel like he's missing out on anything. He, however, appreciates his dark world that allows him to follow his own routines. He hears people commenting and pitying him, but he doesn't want to spend time dwelling on it. The blind boy is happy with how he is. This is the essence of the Kannada poem as well.
