

I am the Land

- Marina de Bellagente

Previous Years' Questions - Solved

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Multiple Choice Questions - Solved

1. "You cannot put a fence, around the planet earth." Here, expression of the speaker is

- (A) self-assertion
- (B) weakness
- (C) proud
- (D) suffocation.

(April 2016) (MQP 2017)

Answer: (A) self-assertion

2. "Then someone tickles me, plants life fruit grass trees / children dance / someone sings." It shows that how people

- (A) use the land properly
- (B) use the land greedily for their comforts
- (C) do different works on the land
- (D) take care of the land.

(June 2016)

Answer: (A) use the land properly

3. In the poem 'I Am the Land', 'I wait' is used several times. Here the poet feels that

- (A) the land has patience
- (B) the land warns human beings
- (C) the land feels proud of its resources
- (D) the land waits to see its future disasters.

(April 2017)

Answer: (A) the land has patience

4. In the poem, 'I am the Land', the phrase 'I wait' suggests the feeling of

- (A) patience
- (B) generosity
- (C) sympathy
- (D) kindness.

(June 2017)

Answer: (A) patience

5. In the poem 'I Am the Land', the statement "YOU CANNOT PUT A FENCE AROUND THE PLANET EARTH" suggests the Land's

- (A) anger
- (B) patience
- (C) self-assertion
- (D) suffocation.

(April 2018)

Answer: (C) self-assertion

6. The land feels choked when one of the following activities is done by man. That is

- (A) putting a fence
- (B) digging muddy holes
- (C) buying land
- (D) coming with guns.

(June 2018)

Answer: (A) putting a fence

7. The quality of the speaker highlighted with the repetition of the word "I wait" in the poem "I am the land" is

- (A) disgust

- (B) annoyance
- (C) patience
- (D) honesty.

Answer: (C) patience

(April 2019)

8. In the poem, 'I am the land', the land is suffocated due to

- (A) plants
- (B) fences
- (C) guns
- (D) muddy holes.

Answer: (B) fences

(June 2019)

1 Mark Questions - Solved

1. Mention the figure of speech in the line: 'I am the Land. I wait.' (April 2015)

Answer: The figure of speech is personification. The inanimate land is given human qualities and feelings of patience.

2. In the poem, "I am the Land" who is the speaker?

(June 2015)

Answer: In the poem "I am the Land", the land is the speaker.

2 Mark Questions - Solved

1. What kind of man's activities affect the land?

(June 2018)

Answer: Several activities of the man affect the land adversely, for instance, digging muddy holes and building car parking lots do not rejuvenate the land and instead pollutes it. Building chain link fences chokes the land and using guns and waging wars takes away life.

3 Mark Questions (Extract) - Solved

1. "You say you own me, I wait."

(a) Who is the speaker?

(b) Who does 'you' refer to?

(c) What does 'I wait' indicate in the context?

(April 2022) (MQP 2021)

Answer:

(a) The speaker is the personified Mother Earth.

(b) 'You' refers to the reader, who represents humankind, specifically the people who destroy the earth.

(c) The poet uses 'I wait' to indicate that the earth, like a mother, waits and tolerates the violations around her. It emphasises the quality of patience shown by the earth. The earth is waiting patiently for humankind to realise its wrongdoings.

2. "You come with guns a chainlink necklace chokes me now."

(a) Who does 'me' refer to in this context?

(b) Who is the speaker addressing to?

(c) What makes the speaker breathless?

(June 2022)

Answer:

(a) In this context, "me" refers to the land who is the personified speaker of the poem.

(b) The speaker is addressing humans, especially the people who perform activities that pollute the land and bring it harm.

(c) The speaker that is personified land, feels breathless and choked because of the chain link fences built by humans. This is a representation of how humans divide the land and create boundaries that don't exist, hurting the land.

3 Mark Questions - Solved

**1. How does the mother earth express her feelings in the poem "I am the Land"?
(April 2024)**

Answer: In the poem "I am the Land", poet Marina de Bellagente uses the personified land as a speaker who is observing all human activity. The land is patient in its observance. Activities like the tilling of the land and the planting of trees are life giving and cause great joy. So do activities like children dancing and birds and people singing. On the other hand, activities like digging holes and building lifeless structures like parking lots and roads don't bring the land any joy. Activities like creating boundaries, dividing the land and differentiating between people choke the land and make it breathless. Using weapons like guns and waging wars, takes away life and therefore takes away the joy of land.

**2. Give some instances to show that the land has more patience according to the poet Marina de Bellagente.
(MQP 2023)**

Answer: The poet Marina de Bellagente expresses in the poem "I am the Land" the patience of the land. The land is the speaker in the poem and is a patient observer of all human activities. When people cut down trees, flatten land, dig holes and build structures like parking lots, the land only watches. When people claim ownership and build chain link fences and create boundaries, it chokes the land. However, the land patiently reminds people and self asserts that people have no authority and cannot divide the planet. Also, when people wage wars and fight using guns, the land is saddened by these activities. However, without retaliation, the land waits patiently for people to realise their mistakes.

4 Marks Questions - Solved

1. Write the summary of the poem 'I am the Land'. (April 2020)

Answer: The poem 'I wait' by Marina de Bellagenta is written from the first-person perspective of the earth. The earth, specifically Mother Nature, is personified and observes the activities of humankind. When people plough the land and plant seeds, the earth is pleased and rewards them with trees, fruits and flowers. This makes people happy and children sing, dance and play in joy. However, when people drill holes, bring guns and wage wars, it hurts the earth. When people build chain-link fences and create borders, the earth observes and waits patiently for humans to realise that they cannot claim the land. The earth is saddened by the divisive actions of humans.

2. Describe the feelings of the Mother Earth in the poem "I am the Land" in your own words. (September 2020)

Answer: In the poem "I am the Land", poet Marina de Bellagente uses the personified land as a speaker. The activities of humans cause several effects, both good and bad. The land, as the speaker, expresses how it is patiently watching all the activities performed by humans. Few activities like the tilling of the land and the planting of trees are life giving and bring great joy to the land. So do activities like children dancing and birds and people singing. On the other hand, activities like digging holes to take away materials (oil, minerals etc.), and building lifeless structures like parking lots and roads don't bring the land any joy. Activities like creating boundaries, dividing the land and differentiating between people choke the land and make it breathless. Using weapons like guns and waging wars, takes away life and therefore takes away the joy of land.

How does the poet Marina de Bellagenta explain the patience and self-assertion of the land? (April 2023)

OR

How does the land in the poem 'I am the Land' express the patience and its pains? (June 2023)

OR

How does the planet earth put up with man's greed? (MQP 2022)

Answer: The poem "I am the Land" by Marina de Bellagenta explores the effects of human activities on our planet Mother Earth. The poem explores this through the perspective of the land and hence the land is personified as the speaker of the poem. The land expresses how it patiently observes the activities of humans. Activities like digging holes and building car parking lots, using lots of vehicles that add pollution are all activities that the land doesn't approve of. Waging wars using weapons like guns bring great grief to the land. However, the land only watches patiently and doesn't retaliate. When human beings, in their ignorance, assume ownership of the land and build boundaries and create divisions, the land feels like it's being choked on a necklace made of chain link fences. The land asserts itself and reminds the people that they do not have authority over it. They have no right to divide planet earth and assume ownership.
