

The Trees

MOST IMPORTANT QUESTIONS

1. Where are the trees in the poem? What do their roots, their leaves and twigs do?

Ans: The poem by Adrienne Rich talks about trees that have been kept indoors for their decorative value. The poet envisions these trees as being trapped in confined spaces and struggling to move towards their natural environment. The roots work hard to free themselves from the cracks in the floor, while the leaves and branches put in effort to shatter the glass window and escape into the open.

2. The forest undergoes tremendous transformation overnight. Discuss with reference to the poem "The Trees".

Ans. In Adrienne Rich's poem "The Trees", the forest symbolizes nature's power to renew and reclaim its space. The transformation happens as the trees, once confined indoors, struggle to break free and return to their natural habitat. Overnight, they quietly move out, breaking through barriers like glass. This shift shows the trees' determination to reconnect with the earth and sky, symbolizing freedom and resilience. The transformation also reflects humanity's need to respect nature's independence and vitality, as the forest thrives when left to its natural course.

3. Conflict between humans and nature is always there. Nature is also rebelling against civilization and becoming destructive. Explain.

Ans. The poem "The Trees" highlights the conflict between humans and nature, emphasizing how humans have harmed the environment. People have focused on gaining material wealth but have ignored the importance of preserving nature. Large forests have been cut down, animals have been killed, and water sources have been destroyed. Humans mistakenly believe that nature is weak, but in reality, it is extremely powerful. Natural disasters like floods, earthquakes, volcanoes, and tornadoes remind us that no matter how advanced we become, nature's strength is unmatched, and it can act in ways beyond human control.

4. My head is full of whispers that tomorrow will be silent. Listen. The glass is breaking. The trees are stumbling forward into the night. Winds rush to meet them. The moon is broken like a mirror, its pieces flash now in the crown of the tallest oak.

- (A) Why would the whispers be silent tomorrow?
- (B) Why are the trees stumbling?
- (C) Which word in the stanza means the same as 'Quiet'?
- (D) Which poetic device has been used in the sixth line of the stanza?

Ans. (A) The whispers will be silent because the trees will move outside to the forest.
(B) The trees are stumbling because they hurry to move outside after breaking the glass.
(C) The word is 'Silent'.
(D) Simile has been used using 'like' for comparison.

5. Why is the poet writing long letters? Why does she not mention the departure of the trees?

Ans: The poet writes long letters, likely to keep herself engaged in some activity. She avoids mentioning the departure of the trees in her letters because she does not want anyone to know that the trees in her house are rebelling and struggling to escape to the forest. The trees quietly fight for their freedom at night, breaking free from their confinement when no one is watching. The poet wishes for the trees to return to nature, where they truly belong. Therefore, she believes it is better to remain silent about their escape.

