

Exam Practice

Extract Based Questions

Read the following extracts carefully and answer the questions that follow.

1 Wind, come softly.

Don't break the shutters of the windows.

Don't scatter the papers.

Don't throw down the books on the shelf.

- (i) The poet of the poem given in the extract is
 (a) Robert Frost (b) Coates Kinney
 (c) WB Yeats (d) Subramania Bharati

(ii) From the given lines, the tone of the poet can be said to be

- (a) friendly (b) order
 (c) angry (d) requesting

(iii) The given lines tell us that the wind is blowing

- (a) gently (b) forcefully
 (c) continuously (d) slowly

(iv) The literary device used in the given line is

(v) In the poem, which is the wind symbolic of?

Ans. (i) (d) Subramania Bharati

(ii) (d) requesting

(iii) (b) forcefully

(iv) Anaphora

(v) In the poem, the wind is symbolic of trials and tribulations.

2 There, look what you did-you threw them all down.

You tore the pages of the books.

You brought rain again.

You're very clever at poking fun at weaklings.

(i) Name the poem from which this extract has been taken.

- (a) Rain on the Roof
 (b) On Killing a Tree
 (c) A Legend of the Northland
 (d) Wind

(ii) The given lines indicate that the poet is

- (a) trying to give readers a moral lesson.
 (b) angry at the wind.
 (c) trying to stop the damage.
 (d) trying people to be strong.

(iii) The literary device used in the given lines is

- (a) Repetition (b) Anaphora
 (c) Oxymoron (d) Metaphor

(iv) Whom does the poet address as 'you'?

(v) How does it deal with the 'weaklings'?

Ans. (i) (d) Wind

(ii) (b) angry at the wind.

(iii) (b) Anaphora

(iv) The wind is being addressed as 'you'.

(v) It terrifies them with its fierce power.

3 He won't do what you tell him.

So, come, let's build strong homes.

Let's joint the doors firmly.

Practise to firm the body.

Make the heart steadfast

(i) Who is 'He' in the extract?

- (a) The fire
 (b) The moon
 (c) The wind
 (d) The sun

(ii) The word which DOES NOT indicate the poet's purpose is

- (a) build (b) practice
 (c) homes (d) steadfast

(iii) 'You' in the first line refers to

- (a) the poet
 (b) the strong people
 (c) the poet's friend
 (d) the listener

(iv) Through the given lines the poet is trying to

(v) Why will 'he' not listen?

Ans. (i) (c) The wind

(ii) (c) homes

(iii) (d) the listener

(iv) tell us the importance of being strong.

(v) He will not listen as it is his nature to exploit the weak.

4 Frail crumbling houses, crumbling doors,
 crumbling rafters,
 Crumbling wood, crumbling bodies,
 crumbling lives
 Crumbling hearts—

The wind god winnows and crushes them all.

(i) How does the poet describe the wind?

- (a) Good (b) Forgiving
 (c) Hasty (d) Cruel

- (ii) "The wind god winnows and crushes them all" indicates that
 (a) the weak always lose.
 (b) only the strong remain in the world.
 (c) the wind god is always powerful.
 (d) the wind tests the courage of the people.
- (iii) The word in the extract that does not indicate destruction is
 (a) crumbling
 (b) crushes
 (c) frail
 (d) winnows
- (iv) Why does the wind first winnow and then crush?
- (v) Why is the word 'crumbling' repeated in the extract?

Ans. (i) (d) Cruel
 (ii) (b) only the strong remain in the world.
 (iii) (c) frail
 (iv) To separate the weak from the strong, the wind first winnow and then crushes.
 (v) To emphasise the destruction caused by the wind, the word 'crumbling' has been repeated.

5 The wind blows out weak fires
 He makes strong fires roar and flourish
 His friendship is good
 We praise him everyday

- (i) What does 'He' do to weak fires?
 (a) It makes them burn brightly.
 (b) It extinguishes them.
 (c) It helps them.
 (d) It teases them.
- (ii) "The wind blows out weak fires/he makes strong fires roar and flourish" indicates which qualities of wind.
 (a) Constructive (b) Destructive
 (c) Natural (d) Both (a) and (b)
- (iii) Why does the poet say his friendship is good?
 (a) Because it teaches us not to commit the same mistake twice.
 (b) Because it teaches us how to live life.
 (c) Because it fills us with confidence and courage.
 (d) Because it ensures that we are successful in all our endeavors.

- (iv) Which word in the passage means same as 'brandish'?
- (v) How can we make friends with the wind?

Ans. (i) (b) It extinguishes them.
 (ii) (d) Both (a) and (b)
 (iii) (c) Because it fills us with confidence and courage.
 (iv) Flourish
 (v) By being strong and courageous, we can make friends with the wind.

Short Answer (SA) Type Questions

1 Why does the poet ask the wind to come softly in the beginning of the poem?

Ans. The poet asks the wind to come softly in the beginning of the poem so that peace and order may be maintained. When the wind blows fiercely, it creates a mess all around. It disturbs everything and everyone in the society. Therefore, the poet asks the wind to be soft so that it is harmless as well as enjoyable.

2 How does the wind cause rain?

Ans. When the wind blows violently, it appears as if a storm is coming. This storm brings dark rainy clouds from distant places and then causes them to make rain. Hence, the poet says that wind causes rain.

3 How does the wind make fun of the weaklings?

Ans. The strong wind, according to the poet, makes fun of weaklings. Its destructive power harms weak persons and delicate things without showing any

mercy. It crushes all the weak and fragile things including houses, doors and even human hearts and lives.

4 What does crumbling suggest in the poem 'Wind'?

Ans. The word 'crumbling' as used in the poem means breaking of things. In the poem 'Wind', it refers to the destruction caused by the strong winds. Its repetition signifies that wind will destroy everything weak around it. The weak people will be 'crumbled' by the difficulties that they face.

5 Why does the poet want people to have firm bodies and strong hearts?

Ans. The poet wants the people to have firm bodies and strong hearts to fight the wind and all the difficulties, struggles and obstacles of life. According to him, if people are unhealthy and weak, they will be defeated by these difficulties. But if they are physically strong and mentally confident, they can resist all the hardships boldly and successfully.

6 Who all are disturbed by the blowing of the wind and who are not?

Ans. According to the poet, all people who are physically weak and mentally not determined, are disturbed by the blowing of the wind.

Self-confident and strong people do not get disturbed by the wind. Infact, they come out as stronger and confident than before.

7 What does the wind symbolise?

Ans. The wind, in the poem, is a symbol of all difficulties, struggles and obstacles of life. Just like our houses

have to face the strong winds, we as humans also face many hardships in life. We must face these hardships with confidence and boldness, otherwise it will destroy us.

8 Give the central idea of the poem 'Wind'.

Ans. The Central idea of the poem 'Wind' is that we should be strong in mind and body. The poem motivates us to face any difficulty and challenge with determination and inspires us to be courageous. The strong winds representing the difficulties of life, teaches us the value of unshakeable determination.

Long Answer (LA) Type Questions

1 How is 'Wind' a symbolic poem? Compare it with 'The Road Not Taken'.

Ans. The wind is a symbolic poem as the wind in the poem is symbolic of all the difficulties, obstacles, struggles and obstructions that we have to face in life. Through the symbol of wind, the poet then teaches its readers an important lesson that one must be strong and bold. Only courageous and confident people can face these difficulties and emerge victorious.

On the hand, in the poem 'The Road Not Taken' by Robert Frost, the roads represents the dilemma of choices that each one of us have to face in life. Just like it, the poem 'Wind' also contain a deeper, metaphorical meaning.

From this comparison, it is justified that poems can have a deeper meaning than the obvious one they show. Under an able teacher a student finds more pleasure in tracking down the symbols and figurative meanings. In simple words, every word and every line in a poem can refer to different ideas and thoughts.

2 What destructive events are caused by the wind? How can we prevent these destructive events from happening?

Ans. In the poem, the violent winds cause many destructive events. It breaks the shutters of the windows, scatters the papers, throw down books from its shelves and even tear their pages. The wind, through it fierce force holds the capacity to cause a lot of destruction. Its power can destroys rafters, houses, door as well as people's hearts and lives. We can prevent these destructive events by being firm and steadfast. We need to be positive and strong both physically as well as mentally, besides making our houses stronger.

By being strong, we will become friends with the wind. As a result, we will be easily able to tackle the wind as well as the difficulties we face in life. It then helps us in achieving success and in flourishing our lives.