

02

Fire and Ice

—by Robert Frost

Stanzawise Explanation

Stanza 1

Some say the world will end in fire
Some say in ice.
From what I've tasted of desire
I hold with those who favour fire.

Explanation In these lines, the poet analyses the views of the people and states that there can be two possible causes for the end of the world. On one side there are people who believe that the world will end because of fire. Here, fire represents the extreme desire, anger, greed etc present within human beings. On the other side, there are people who favour ice. Here, ice represents the human emotions of hatred, intolerance etc. The poet from his experience believes that the world will end with fire. Thus, the poet remains with those people who favour fire.

Stanza 2

But if it had to perish twice,
I think I know enough of hate
To say that for destruction ice
Is also great
And would suffice.

Explanation In these lines, the poet thinks that if the world had to end twice, ice would also be able to destroy it completely. For the poet ice (hatred) is as powerful as fire (desire).

In human beings, hatred is long-lasting and it enters into their hearts. It remains through the life. Thus, poet thinks that ice or hatred will be sufficient to bring an end of this world.

Objective Questions

Extract Based MCQs

Direction Read the extract given below and answer the following questions that follow

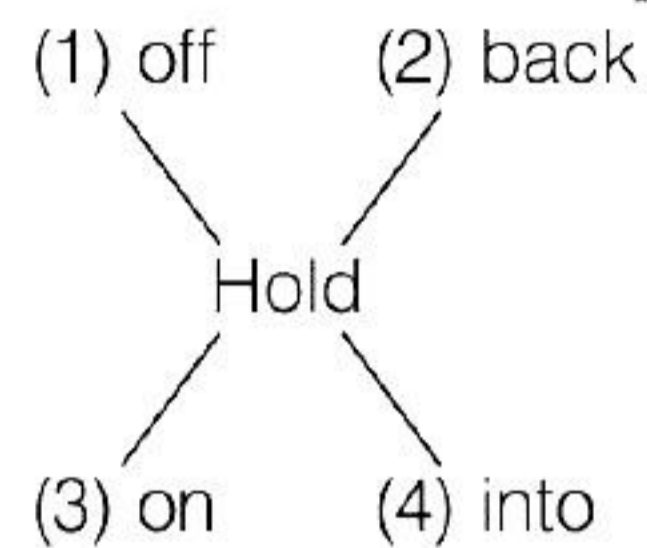
- 01.** Some say the world will end in fire
Some say in ice.
From what I've tasted of desire
I hold with those who favour fire.
(CBSE Question Bank 2021)

- (i) Choose the CORRECT statement about the given poem.

- (a) Fire and ice are images—they help the readers visualise the power of nature over man.
- (b) Fire and ice are symbols—not of natural disasters, but of humanity's ability to create disasters of its own.
- (c) Fire and ice are elements—not of Nature but man-made and possess the ability to create havoc for mankind.
- (d) Fire and ice are agents—they change the thinking of mankind from negative to positive and bring harmony.

- (ii) According to the poet 'fire' refers to
 (a) desires
 (b) passions
 (c) anger
 (d) All of the above

- (iii) The poet uses the phrasal verb -hold with. Choose the option that DOES NOT indicate a valid phrasal verb.



- (a) Option (1) (b) Option (2)
 (c) Option (3) (d) Option (4)
- (iv) What message does the poet want to convey through this poem?
 (a) Everything is transitory
 (b) Life is unpredictable
 (c) Death is inevitable
 (d) Both (a) and (c)
- (v) The poetic device used in the above lines is
 (a) Imagery (b) Anaphora
 (c) Metaphor (d) Oxymoron

02. But if it had to perish twice
 I think I know enough of hate
 To say that for destruction ice
 Is also great
 And would suffice.

(CBSE Question Bank 2021)

- (i) Pick the option that is NOT TRUE about the poet according to the extract. The poet
 (a) is inclined to believe that the world would most likely end with fire.
 (b) has heard divided opinions about the way the world would end in all likelihood.
 (c) preaches love and kindness to combat the spread of hate among all.
 (d) declares the power of ice to be as destructive as that of fire.

- (ii) The poem is a put across by the poet.

- (a) powerful warning
 (b) heart-felt apology
 (c) earnest appeal
 (d) vengeful threat

- (iii) The word 'perish' means

- (a) decay (b) loose one's life
 (c) appear (d) improve

- (iv) Select the option that correctly classifies the connotations for fire and ice, as suggested in the poem.

1. rage 2. violence
 3. indifference 4. hate
 5. greed

- (a) Fire-3, 4; Ice-1, 2, 5
 (b) Fire-2, 5; Ice-1, 3, 4
 (c) Fire-1, 3, 5; Ice-2, 4
 (d) Fire-1, 2, 4; Ice-3, 5

- (v) What does the poet want to convey through this poem?

- (a) We should not be greedy
 (b) All humans should check their desires and hatred
 (c) Restrain our desires and love fellow beings
 (d) Both (a) and (c)

MCQs Based on Poem

- 01.** Which poem is depicted through the image given below?



- (a) Snow of Dust
 (b) Fire and Ice
 (c) Fog
 (d) None of these

- 02.** Why do some people say that the world will end in ice?
- Because love among people is increasing fast.
 - Because hatred among people is increasing fast.
 - Because lust among people is increasing fast.
 - None of the above

- 03.** Which of the following lines use(s) the poetic device 'symbolism'?
- Some say the world will end in fire
 - Some say in ice
 - But if it have to perish twice
 - To say that for destruction ice, is also great
 - Of desire I hold with those who favour fire
- Options 1 and 3
 - Options 1, 2, 4 and 5
 - Options 2, 4 and 5
 - Only option 3

- 04.** What would suffice if the world were to perish twice?
- Ice
 - Fire
 - Hatred
 - Both (a) and (b)

- 05.** Given below are two statements marked as Assertion (A) and Reason (R) on the basis of the poem. Read both the statements carefully and choose the correct alternative from the following.

Assertion (A) According to the poet, the end will end in ice.

Reason (R) the poet suggests that the reason behind this destruction is the hatred in the world.

Codes

- Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
- Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A.
- A is true, but R is false.
- A is false, but R is true.

- 06.** What is the rhyming scheme of the poem?
- abaa bcbcb
 - aaba bcbcb
 - aaab bcbcb
 - abab bcbcb

- 07.** Which of the following poetic devices is used in the poem 'Fire and Ice'?

- Alliteration
- Assonance
- Personification
- All of these

- 08.** Identify the poetic device used in the line 'Some say the world will end in fire'.

- Metaphor
- Imagery
- Alliteration
- Oxymoron

- 09.** The poet, Robert Frost, deals with a very sublime subject in the poem 'Fire and Ice' -

- Love and hatred
- Freedom
- End of the world
- None of the above

- 10.** What does Robert Frost confess in the poem 'Fire and Ice'?

- He has written the poem quickly
- He has himself tasted desires
- He has done injustice to the poem
- He wants the world to end

- 11.** According to the poem 'Fire and Ice', 'Hate' born of cold reasoning, makes a man

- Strong person
- A bitter human being
- A better individual
- Insensitive to feelings

- 12.** Identify the most likely tone of the poet in the lines- 'To say that for destruction ice/Is also great'. (CBSE Question Bank 2021)

- sarcastic
- serious
- amused
- celebratory

- 13.** Choose the options that correctly symbolise fire and ice in the poem 'Fire and Ice'.

FIRE	ICE
Greed	Insensitivity
Conflict	Coldness
Fury	Cruelty
(i).....	(ii).....

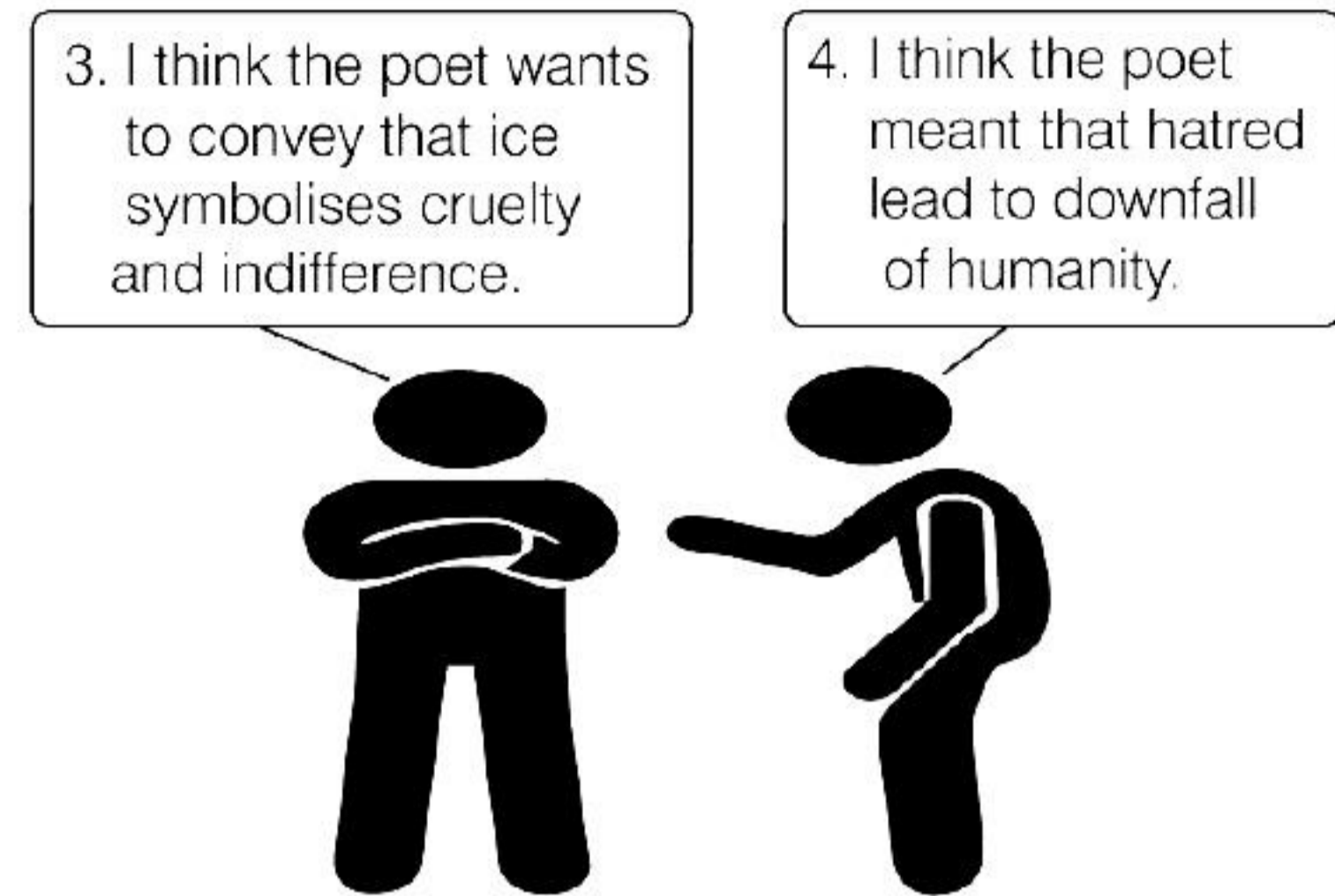
(i) **Fire**

- (a) Love (b) Desires
(c) Brotherhood (d) Self-esteem

(ii) **Ice**

- (a) Indifference (b) Differences
(c) Unity (d) Strength

14. Pick the option that correctly classifies the Facts (F) and Opinions (O) of the students.



- (a) F-1, 2 and O-3, 4 (b) F-3, 4 and O-1, 2
(c) F-1, 2, 3 and O-4 (d) F-2, 3 and O-1, 4

15. Why does the poet hold with those who favour fire?

- (a) Because love among people is increasing fast.
(b) Because hatred among people is increasing fast.
(c) Because the lust for material things is increasing quickly.
(d) None of the above

ANSWERS

Extract Based MCQs

Extract 1

- (i) (b) (ii) (a) (iii) (d) (iv) (d) (v) (b)

Extract 2

- (i) (c) (ii) (a) (iii) (a) (iv) (d) (v) (d)

MCQs Based on Poem

1. (b) 2. (b) 3. (b) 4. (d) 5. (a) 6. (a) 7. (d) 8. (b) 9. (a) 10. (b)
11. (d) 12. (a) 13. (i) (b) 13. (ii) (a) 14. (b) 15. (a)