

FOR ANNE GREGORY

MOST IMPORTANT QUESTIONS

1. “But I can get a hair-dye and set such colour there, Brown, or black, or carrot,

That young men in despair May love me for myself alone And not my yellow hair.”

- (A) Who is the speaker of these lines?
(B) Why does Anne say that she can change her hair colour?
(C) Which word in the stanza means ‘colour’?
(D) What is the rhyming scheme adopted in this stanza?

Ans: (A) The speaker of these lines is **Anne**.

(B) Anne says she can change her hair color to show that she wants to be loved for who she is as a person, not just because of her yellow hair.

(C) The word in the stanza that means "colour" is "**dye**".

(D) The rhyming scheme of this stanza is **ABCB**.

2. What does the poet mean by, “those great honey-coloured ramparts at your ear”?

Ans. The poet uses the phrase "**those great honey-coloured ramparts at your ear**" to describe the golden locks of hair near the listener's ear. The word "ramparts" refers to strong, protective walls, suggesting that the hair is like a beautiful barrier, rich in color and magnificence. It symbolizes beauty and allure, highlighting the golden or honey-like shade of the hair.

3. Why is only God capable of loving Anne for herself?

Ans. Only God is capable of loving Anne for herself because God's love is unconditional and does not depend on physical appearances, such as Anne's beautiful yellow hair. The poet implies that humans often focus on outer beauty and superficial qualities, but God sees and values the true inner self, including Anne's character, heart, and soul.

4. The poet in the poem ‘For Anne Gregory’ conveys that we should give importance to inner beauty and not physical appearance. Elaborate with reference to the poem.

Ans. In the poem "For Anne Gregory" by W.B. Yeats, the poet conveys the important message that true love should value a person's inner qualities, like their character and personality, rather than their physical appearance. Through a conversation between the poet and Anne Gregory, this idea is explored in a thoughtful and meaningful way. The poet begins by admiring Anne's striking physical beauty, especially her "honey-coloured hair." He acknowledges that her golden locks might attract people who fall in love with her, but this love is often shallow because it is based solely on her outer beauty. Anne responds by saying that she can change her hair color to brown, black, or even carrot, suggesting that she does not want to be loved merely for her appearance. She yearns for someone who will love her for who she truly is, for her inner self rather than her external charm.

The poet, however, concludes on a reflective note, stating that human love is flawed and

often focuses on superficial aspects like physical beauty. He remarks that only God is capable of loving a person purely for who they are, without any consideration of their looks. This divine love is unconditional, unlike human love, which is frequently influenced by appearances and material attributes.

Through this dialogue, the poet highlights the transient nature of physical beauty and stresses the importance of inner beauty, which reflects one's true essence. The poem serves as a gentle reminder that true love transcends physical appearances and lies in appreciating a person's inner qualities.

5. How right or wrong is it to judge someone on the basis of his/her physical appearance?

Ans: Physical appearances never give the true account of a person as it can be changed with the help of clothing, make-up and other such things.

Something which is not true and real should not be used to judge the person carrying it. A person must be judged on the basis of his behaviour that shows the true characteristics of his personality. This is explained by Anne in her reply to the first speaker that her beautiful hair-colour which attracts men is changeable, hence, men should not fall in love with her based on her-hair colour.

6. (A) Whom are these lines addressed to?

Ans: These lines are addressed to Anne Gregory.

(B) What would throw a young man into despair?

Ans: The great honey-coloured ramparts at the girl's ear.

(C) What is the message conveyed through these lines?

Ans: The lines convey the message that people should value inner beauty more than physical appearance.

