



Explanation of the Poem:

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: The poet considers two possible causes for the end of the world: fire, symbolizing intense desires and anger, and ice, representing hatred and intolerance. Based on personal experience, the poet aligns with those who believe the world will end with fire, emphasizing the destructive nature of extreme passions.

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: The poet believes that if the world were to end again, persistent hatred (represented by ice) would be as powerful as fire (desire). The enduring nature of hatred, rooted in human hearts, is seen by the poet as sufficient to bring about the world's end.

Poetic Devices Used in the Poem

Alliteration Repetition of initial consonant sounds in the same line

- Some say the **w**orld **w**ill end in fire **S**ome **s**ay in ice.
- I hold with those who **f**avour **f**ire

Paradox A true statement but which seems untrue.

- But had to perish twice

Symbolism

1. line-symbol for desire
2. Ice-a symbol for hate

Rhyme Scheme

- abaabcbcb

Extract Based Questions:

"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."

1. According to the extract, what are the two contrasting opinions about how the world will end?

Answer: The two contrasting opinions are that the world will end either in fire or in ice.

2. How does the speaker express their personal preference regarding the end of the world?

Answer: The speaker holds with those who favor fire, suggesting a preference for a fiery end.

3. In what way might the speaker's experience with desire influence their preference for fire?

Answer: The speaker's mention of having tasted desire may imply a connection between passion and the choice of a fiery end, suggesting a more intense and passionate conclusion.

"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."

1. What does the speaker suggest about the potential destruction of the world?

Answer: The speaker suggests that ice, associated with hate, would suffice to destruction.

2. How does the speaker connect hate with the idea of using ice for destruction?

Answer: The speaker implies that their understanding of hate is sufficient to recognize ice as a powerful force of destruction.

3. What does the use of the word "suffice" convey about the speaker's perspective on the destructive potential of ice? the potential of ice?

Answer: The use of "suffice" indicates that the speaker believes ice would be effective and adequate for causing destruction.

Top 10 PYQs:

Short Answer Questions (40-50 words each)

1. According to the poet, what do 'ice' and 'fire' symbolise? [CBSE QB, 2020-21]

Answer: According to the poet 'ice' symbolizes hatred, coldness, and rigidity, and these cold human emotions and lack of love are destructive enough to eliminate the warmth of fire and destroy the world. Fire symbolises unlimited wishes and desires of human beings like violent feelings of anger, cruelty, brutality, etc., that could end the world.

2. What is the message of the poem 'Fire and Ice'? [CBSE QB, 2020-21]

Answer: The poem 'Fire and Ice' is short but encompasses the entire of humanity in its targeted message. The metaphor of 'Fire

and

'Ice' is used very effectively to solidly convey a clear message to the readers. The poem acts like as moral mirror for readers to assess their role in the world.

'Fire' stands for our uncontrolled passions which are disastrous for human beings. Similarly, cold reasoning devoid of human love will bring insensitivity. Both the aspects of human thinking and resulting behaviour embedded with desire and hatred will lead to the end of this world and it may also happen more than once.

3. The tone of the speaker contrasts with the seriousness of the subject matter. Justify. [CBSE QB, 2020-21]

Answer: 'Fire and Ice' is a symbolic poem by Robert Frost with a message to reveal the gravity of the violent and cold human emotions. These emotions, if not controlled, may lead to destruction of the world. The poet wants to aware the humanity that everything will end one day as a result a human misdeed. His aim is aphorism-brevity for Frost truth remains ambiguous as how specific the world is going to end. That's why the tone contrasts with the seriousness of the subject matter with people favouring both 'fire' and 'ice'.

4. Evaluate the line- Some say the world will end in fire/Some say in ice- in the context of volcanic eruptions, forest fires, meteor collisions, melting ice caps, etc. [CBSE QB, 2020-21]

Answer: In the poem 'Fire and Ice' the poet considers the age-old question of whether the world will end in fire or ice. The threat of global warming may lead to severe volcanic eruptions and forest fires that may end the world OR there might be a meteor collision, the melting of ice caps or glaciers, etc, that may also end the world. So, either option is enough to achieve its purpose sufficiently in a storm of volcanic eruptions, forest fires, or melting ice caps.

5. Fire and Ice projects a pessimistic outlook. Comment. [CBSE QB, 2020-21]

Answer: In my opinion, 'Fire and Ice' projects a realistic outlook rather than a pessimistic one. The poet presents the view that the world may end, either by fire or ice. He mentions that he has experienced much in life after World War I, suggesting that the end could come through either greed or indifference.

6. What do 'fire' and 'ice' stand for and what is the general opinion regarding the world? [Board Term-I, 2016-17]

Answer: Fire stands for fury, desire, lust, anger, avarice, cruelty, and greed. Ice symbolizes hatred, coldness, rigidity, insensitivity, and intolerance. The general opinion regarding the world's end is divided: some believe it will end in fire, while others say in ice. These two reasons contrast each other and are equally opposite. People who favor fire believe that heat and passion will end the world. On the other hand, some think that ice will freeze the world.

7. To say that for destruction, ice is also great for the poet, what does ice stand for? How is it sufficient to bring destruction? [CBSE 2014]

Answer: Ice represents the cold feelings of humans, such as indifference, hatred, greed, jealousy, apathy, lack of love, cold-heartedness, etc. Although the poet states that he believes fire would bring an end to the world, he also mentions that if the world were to end twice, then ice, or the cold feelings of people, would also be sufficient to end the world.

8. How will the world end? Support your answer with a scientific explanation. [CBSE 2014]

Answer: According to some people, the world will end in fire. The core of the earth will get extremely heated up due to the increasing global warming. It may lead to severe natural calamities like volcanic eruptions, earthquakes, uncontrollable forest fires, and tsunamis that may end the world. However, some people believe that the world may end in ice. As a result of the melting ice caps or glaciers, there would rise an ice age that would freeze all the living things on the earth to death. All the ice and snow from the mountains will melt down to the plains one day and thus, will shrink the world.

9. How can Frost's poem 'Fire and Ice' be read as an extended metaphor?

Answer: Frost's poem 'Fire and Ice' is certainly an extended metaphor. The metaphor of 'Fire and Ice' is used very effectively to solidly convey a clear message to the readers. The poem acts like a moral mirror for readers to assess their standing in the world. Fire metamorphically represents and refers to violent human emotions like anger, cruelty, brutality, etc., while the term ice refers to cold human feelings such as hatred, jealousy, indifference, etc., that might destroy the world. The poet has used both fire and ice as great metaphors to imply that both of the destructive forces are powerful enough to bring doom to the world. These metaphors convey that violent and cruel human emotions are a threat to the world.

10. Explain the symbols used in the poem 'Fire and Ice' by Frost.

Answer: In Frost's poem, 'fire' symbolizes human desires and materialistic greed, leading to conflict and destruction. Conversely, 'ice' represents cold emotions like hatred, resulting in similar destructive consequences. Frost's juxtaposition of these elements suggests that both unchecked desire and indifference can bring about conflict, offering a concise reflection on the dual destructive forces within human nature.