

Flamingo

“Poetry”

1. One out of two Explanations with reference to context from the prescribed poems. 5

2. One out of two Long Answer Type Questions based on the text to be answered in about 60 words. 3

3. Two Short Answer Type Questions to be answered in 20-30 words. $2 \times 2 = 4$

(Theme and Central Idea of all the Poems)

“My Mother at Sixty-Six” by Kamala Das

Theme

The poem captures the universal theme of **love, aging, and the fear of separation**. Kamala Das expresses her deep emotions on realizing her mother's old age and approaching death. It shows the daughter's **helplessness** in the face of time and mortality, highlighting how every human being must accept the reality of life's cycle—youth turning into old age and life moving towards death.

Central Idea

The central idea of the poem revolves around the poet's emotional response to her mother's old age. On her way to the airport, she looks at her sixty-six-year-old mother, who appears pale and lifeless like a corpse. This sight fills her with **pain, fear, and sadness**, reminding her of the inevitable separation through death. To overcome this grief, she tries to distract herself by looking outside at young trees and children—symbols of life and energy. In the end, despite her sorrow, she smiles and bids farewell, hiding her fear and expressing hope to see her mother again.

“Keeping Quiet” by Pablo Neruda

Theme

The poem *“Keeping Quiet”* by Pablo Neruda emphasizes the importance of silence, introspection, and mutual understanding among human beings. The poet suggests that by keeping still and quiet for a moment, we can rise above the barriers of nationality, language, and selfishness. This silence will help us reflect on our lives, stop all destructive activities, and realize the value of peace, harmony, and brotherhood.

Central Idea of the Poem “Keeping Quiet”

The central idea of the poem is that in today's fast and restless world, people must pause for a while to reflect on their actions. The poet urges humanity to stay still and avoid violence, wars, and selfish pursuits. This quiet introspection will connect us with nature, promote love and compassion, and lead to peace and unity across the world.

“A Thing of Beauty” by John Keats

Theme

The poem emphasizes the everlasting value of beauty in human life. True beauty, found in nature or noble deeds, never fades; rather, it provides constant joy, peace, and relief from sorrow. Beauty connects humans to the divine and gives them strength to overcome difficulties.

Central Idea

John Keats conveys that a beautiful object, whether it is a part of nature (like trees, flowers, rivers, or sunshine) or a great human achievement, leaves a lasting impact on our minds. It brings eternal happiness and refreshes our spirits, shielding us from sadness, hopelessness, and negativity. Beauty, therefore, is a source of inspiration and comfort, making life meaningful and worth living.

“A Roadside Stand” by Robert Frost

Theme

The poem highlights the sharp contrast between the lives of the poor villagers and the rich urban people. It shows the hardships of rural folk, who depend on small earnings from their roadside stalls. The rich, instead of helping, pass by without concern. The theme revolves around social injustice, inequality, and the neglect of rural life by the wealthy and powerful.

Central Idea

Through the roadside stand, Robert Frost presents the struggles, hopes, and disappointments of poor villagers. They dream that city people will stop to buy their goods and support them, but their hopes are often ignored. The poet expresses sympathy for the villagers and criticizes the selfishness of the rich. The central idea is that true progress of society is possible only when the poor are uplifted and their lives are filled with justice, dignity, and happiness.

“Aunt Jennifer’s Tigers” by Adrienne Rich

Theme

The poem explores the oppression of women in a patriarchal society and their yearning for freedom. Aunt Jennifer’s life is bound by restrictions, fear, and dominance of her husband, which symbolizes the struggles of many women who live under male authority. In contrast, the tigers she embroiders are bold, fearless, and free — representing the courage and strength she wishes she had. The theme highlights the contrast between female subjugation and the desire for liberation.

Central Idea

The central idea of the poem is the conflict between Aunt Jennifer’s oppressed reality and her inner world of imagination and creativity. Although she suffers under the heavy burden of patriarchal control, her art becomes her escape — through it, she expresses her longing for freedom, fearlessness, and individuality. The tigers she creates will continue to symbolize strength and independence even after her death, showing that art and expression outlast oppression.