

2.4 The Pulley

Warming up!

1. Go through the following images and try to link them with our lives. For example: storms - hardships that we face in our lives.

Owl– Wisdom

Rose–Determination

Tree– life

Clouds– Sorrowful moments

Bouquet of flower– beauty

Waterfall– strength

Mountain–honour

Sunrise–hope

2. You may have often indulged in talking to yourself audibly. For example,

"Oh, dear! Why didn't I get up sooner? .

"Let me finish this quickly and then I'll be free"

"How silly of me! Why didn't I think of it before?"

Such expressions are called Dramatic Monologues. Imagine and write Monologues suitable in the following situations.

• It's your birthday next week.

Ans. I wonder what presents I'll get. I hope dad gets me the bicycle he promised!

• You have been waiting long at the city bus-stop.

Ans. Oh, bother! Now I shall be late for school again.

• Your final exam results are to be declared tomorrow.

Ans. I wish it were tomorrow!

• Your mother has been chatting for very long on the telephone.

Ans. This conversation could go on for ages! When will I get a chance to call?

3. The Pulley is a mechanical device. Try and write down the places where it can be used, and for what purpose.

Ans. To draw water out of a well

- In elevators

- In exercise machines

- In theatres to open curtains

- To lift up heavy objects at construction sites

English workshop

1. With the help of the clues, pick out words containing the letter 'a' from the poem and build a word pyramid.

- (a) an article
- (b) a preposition
- (c) past tense of 'lie
- (d) maximum length of your open palm
- (e) make much of
- (f) loveliness
- (g) in place of
- (h) a collection of priceless articles
- (l) restlessness and discontent

Ans.

A
At
Lay
Span
Adore
Beauty
Instead
Treasure
Weariness

2. Choose the correct alternative from the following.

(a) Herbert's poem "The Pulley" displays.... as the two main themes.

Ans. Origins and morality/Spirituality

(b) The summary of the poem 'The Pulley' is...

(Find two correct statements from the given alternatives.)

- Ans.1)** To remind man about his creator in his exhaustion,
2) God pulled man towards him by making him restless and weary.

(c) In the poem, 'The Pulley' is considered

Ans. An image by which god compels people to become devout.

(d).. is an example of Pun from the poem.

Ans. Rest in the bottom lay.

(e)..... is an example of Paradox from the poem.

Ans. Let him be rich and weary.

(f)... is an example of Synecdoche from the poem.

Ans. May toss him to my breast

(g) ... is an example of Alliteration from the poem.

Ans. Repining restlessness

(h)..... is an example of Inversion from the poem.

Ans. So both should losers be.

(i) The rhyme scheme of the poem is.

Ans. Ababa

3. Discuss and answer in your own words, and write in your notebook.

(a) The poet has used the word REST thrice in the poem. Write what the a implies in each of the three lines it occurs.

Ans.... rest in nature - give importance to enjoy

the three lines it occurs.

the benefits of ... let him keep the rest - the remaining gifts

(except the gift of 'rest')

... rest - contentment, satisfaction

(2) What does God want in return from man for the gifts He has bestowed on him?

Ans. In return for the gift He has bestowed on man, God wants him to lead a life of goodness and to keep on adoring the God who has been so generous to him.

(c) Why did God withhold the gift of 'Rest' from man?

Ans. 'Rest' makes us feel satisfied and contented. When we have 'rest', we do not desire anything more. We might even stop wanting to know more about God, our Creator, or seeking His blessings. Hence, God withheld the gift of 'Rest' from man.

(d) Besides those given in the extract, what other gifts has God blessed mankind with above His other creations? Enlist them.

Ans. Besides those given in the extract, God has blessed mankind with an abundance of creations of nature such as trees, the birds and animals, the fruits and the flowers. He has bestowed on mankind the power of speech, the ability to read and write, and the use of language. Above all, He has given human beings a marvellous brain, with which man has invented millions of things right from the wheel to the computer.

(e) When does man generally turn to God? Give one example to support your response.

Ans. Man generally turns to God when he is troubled or is facing some difficulty. I remember a neighbour of mine who professed to be an atheist, but when there was a stock market crash, we were all surprised to see him at our temple with hands joined and eyes closed. Praying to God.

4. (A) Discuss with your group and justify the title of the poem The Pulley in your own words.

Ans. The pulley works only when it is pulled by someone's hands. The poet has given the poem the title "The Pulley" to express the idea that only when 'repining restlessness' keeps man discontented despite his abundance of riches and graces, will he be drawn towards God. Just as a pulley drawers something from a lower position to a higher position. In the same way, man's thoughts will be lifted towards God, is creator.

(B) Pick out three lines that contain the monologues of God.

Ans. (1) For if I should bestow this jewel also on my creature

(2) He would adore my gifts instead of me.

(3) If goodness lead him not yet weariness ma
toss him to my breast.

5. (A) Pick out two lines that contain the following figures of speech.

(a) Antithesis

Ans. 1) when god at first made man.

2) let the worlds riches. Which dispersed lie, Contract into a span.

(b) Alliteration

Ans. 1) But keep them with repaining restlessness

2) when god at first made man.

(c) Inversion

Ans. 1) so both should losers be

2) let the world riches, which dispersed lie. Up,

(B) Explain the Figures of Speech in the following lines.

(a) Rest in the bottom lay-PUN because

Ans. One word - 2 meaning. Rest stands for what is left and rest stands for peace of mind.

(b) Bestow this jewel also on my creature METAPHOR because

Ans. Rest or peace of mind is called a jewel (something precious) - implied comparison.

(c) And rest in nature, not the God Nature-REPETITION because

Ans. 'Nature' is repeated for poetic emphasis stress.

6. Write Critical Appreciation of the poem in a paragraph format.

Ans. Paragraph Format

The title of the poem is "The Pulley". poet is The George Herbert.

\$\$\$ The central idea of the poem is the reason for man's continual restlessness all his life.

According to the poet, this is because God withheld the quality of rest from man, so that man's thoughts would ultimately turn towards God, his creator

\$\$\$ Each verse of the poem has five lines. The rhyme scheme of each verse is a-b-a-b-a.

\$\$\$ The chief figure of speech used in the poem is Metaphor. The glass of blessings' signifies the sum of all human qualities bestowed on man. The quality of 'rest' or 'contentment' is implicitly compared to a jewel'. The other figures of speech are Pun, Inversion, Paradox, etc.

\$\$\$ This is a metaphysical poem with a message. And the message is that however rich we may be, or whatever the abundance of qualities we may have, we must always turn our thoughts to God and thank Him for the many blessings He has bestowed on us. The poem is rich in imagery and monologues. It is an example of extended metaphor.

\$\$\$ My favourite line in this poem is 'Let him be rich and weary. This brings out the paradox of man's nature so well. Even the richest man in the world finally gets tired and experiences discontentment. This is what God intended for man.

\$\$\$ I like this poem very much because it teaches me not to be self-satisfied and contented but to always remember and thank God for all the blessings He has bestowed on me.

7. Pun' can be defined as play on words based on their different meanings. Example: Writing with a broken pencil is pointless. In this poem there is an example of Pun. Find and make a sentence of your own. Share a joke with the class where the use of Pun' creates humour.

Ans. Remaining

8. Write a paragraph on the points in each block given below to get a summary on each sss of the four stanzas of the poem.

Ans. Remaining