

The Lake Isle of Innisfree

Introduction

This poem is written by William Butler Yeats who was a renowned poet of Irish origin. In this poem, the poet expresses his resolution to go to the small island of Innisfree and live close to nature.

Summary

In this poem, the poet says that he will go to the island of Innisfree and live there in solitude. Innisfree is a small island in a lake called Lough Gill, in Sligo County, Ireland. The poet used to visit this island regularly in his childhood. The poet says that there he will build a small cottage with wattles, cultivate beans on a small patch and will also breed honeybees. He says that he would definitely experience peace over there. It is so calm and quiet over there that one can hear the crickets sing, can see the sky full of stars at night, experience the glowing sunlight during day time, and hear the melodious song of the linnet bird in the evenings. The poet says that he misses the peace and tranquility of that island so much that he could actually hear the water of the lake lapping on the shores of Innisfree even as he stands on the pavement of the gloomy city.

Message

The poet wants to say that sometimes it is necessary to break free from the hustle and bustle of modern society and experience the peace of rural areas. It tends to rejuvenates one's body and soul.



Extract Based Questions

Read the following extracts carefully and answer the questions that follow:

- I will arise and go now, and go to Innisfree,
And a small cabin build there, of clay and wattles made:
Nine bean-rows will I have there, a hive for the honeybee,
And live alone in the bee-loud glade.
(a) The poet wants to go to
(b) 'Bee-loud glade' in the extract means an open space full of the
(c) For food, the poet wants to grow rows of beans near his room.
(i) eight (ii) nine
(iii) ten (iv) eleven
(d) The word opposite in meaning to the word 'alone' is

Answers

- (a) Innisfree
(b) bees buzzing sound
(c) (ii) nine
(d) together/accompanied
- And I shall have some peace there, for peace comes dropping slow
Dropping from the veils of the morning to where the cricket sings;
There midnight's all a glimmer, and noon a purple glow,
And evenings full of the linnet's wings.
(a) State whether the given statement is True or False.
The word 'there' in the extract refers to Innisfree.
(b) The poet will see flying in the sky during the evening.
(c) The poet says that the sound of will bring him at peace.
(i) the cricket (ii) the cuckoo
(iii) the cock (iv) the mosquito
(d) The word 'peace' means the same as

Answers

- (a) True
(b) the linnet bird
(c) (i) the cricket
(d) calmness
- I will arise and go now, for always night and day
I hear the lake water lapping with low sounds by the shore;
While I stand on the roadway, or on the pavements grey,
I hear it in the deep heart's core.
(a) 'Night and day' here means
(i) the whole night and the whole day
(ii) dusk time
(iii) only one day
(iv) sometimes
(b) Whether the poet is standing on the roadway or on the grey-coloured pavements, he hears the sound in the deep
(c) The sound of striking the shore always repeats in his mind.
(i) the waves (ii) the sea water
(iii) the tides (iv) the lake water
(d) The word similar in meaning to the word 'shore' is

Answers

- (a) (i) the whole night and the whole day
(b) heart's core
(c) (iv) the lake water
(d) bank



Short Answer Type Questions

Q 1. Why does the poet desires to spend his time alone in a cabin at Innisfree?

Ans. The poet desires to spend his time alone in a cabin at Innisfree, because it is the place where the poet spent his childhood days. He wants to go back to those beautiful memories.

Q 2. What thoughts and feelings of the poet are expressed?

Ans. The poet's love and eagerness to return to his childhood place at Innisfree and spend some time in peace and solitude are expressed in the poem. The poet's love for nature is also brought forth by this poem.

Q 3. What kind of life does the poet imagine in the poem?

Ans. The poet imagines a life full of joy, peace and solitude. The poet imagines a peaceful morning with the sound of crickets, a glimmery midnight sky, a glowing afternoon and evenings full of the melodious singing of linnet birds.

Q 4. Explain the line, 'lake water lapping with low sounds'.

Ans. This line expresses the sound that the lake water makes when it comes in contact with the shores of the island of Innisfree.

Q 5. Justify the title, 'The Lake Isle of Innisfree'.

Ans. It is a straightforward title. It prepares the readers to be introduced to an island named Innisfree which is located on a small lake. The poet paints a lovely picture of this peaceful and serene island and about his future life at that island. The whole poem is centred around this small island. So, the title is fully justified.

Q 6. What are the three things that the poet wants to do when he goes back to Innisfree?

Ans. The three things that the poet wants to do when he goes back to Innisfree are as follows:

- (i) He wants to build a small cabin from wattles and clay.
- (ii) He wants to grow beans.
- (iii) He wants to breed honeybees.



Long Answer Type Questions

Q 1. Describe how the poet will live in 'The Lake Isle of Innisfree'.

Ans. The poet describes 'The Lake Isle of Innisfree' beautifully. Its natural beauty charms him greatly. He wants to spend his future life there. He says that he will build a small cabin there. It will be made up of clay and wattles. He will cultivate beans and breed honeybees. He will live alone with the buzz of honeybees surrounding him. There would be peace all around. He will hear the singing of the cricket. He will see the midnight glimmer. At noon, he will be engulfed by bright sunlight. During evenings he will listen to the song of the linnet birds. In this way, he will spend peaceful and happy life in the lap of beautiful nature.

Q 2. Do you think Innisfree is only a place, or a state of mind? Does the poet actually miss the place of his boyhood days?

Ans. Innisfree is a place as well as it represents the poet's state of mind. Innisfree is a small island in a lake called Lough Gill, in Sligo County, Ireland. The poet visited it regularly during his childhood and he sorely misses the peace and tranquility of this uninhabited island. The poet wishes to escape to Innisfree as it is more peaceful than where he is now; viz., the crowded and noisy city. Innisfree is representative of what the poet considers an ideal place to live, which is devoid of the restless humdrum of urban life. It is also a state of mind as it is associated with the feelings of peace, happiness and contentment. I think that the poet truly and dearly misses the place of his boyhood days.