

CBSE Class 9 English Language and Literature
Beehive Poem Chapter-3 Rain on the Roof
Test Paper-04

Read the following passages and answer the questions:

1. When the humid shadows hover

Over all the starry spheres
And the melancholy darkness
Gently weeps in rainy tears,
What a bliss to press the pillow
Of a cottage-chamber bed
And I listening to the patter
Of the soft rain overhead!

- a. What are 'starry spheres'?
- b. Who gently weeps in rainy tears?
- c. Where do humid shadows hover?
- d. What is 'melancholy'?

2. Every tinkle on the shingles

Has an echo in the heart;
And a thousand dreamy fancies
Into busy being start,
And a thousand recollections
Weave their air-threads into woof,
As I listen to the patter
Of the rain upon the roof.

- a. What does 'shingles' mean?
- b. Who or what echoes in the heart?
- c. What thousand recollections are woven?
- d. Why does the poet want to listen to the patter of the rain?

Answer the following questions in about 30 words:

3. The drops of rain make a sound when they fall on the stone roofs. How do you perceive

that sound to be?

4. Explain 'a thousand recollections weave their air threads into woof'.
5. What did the poet mean when he said, 'And the melancholy darkness gently weeps in rainy tears'?
6. What are the fancies the poet is talking about?
7. Explain 'As I list to this refrain'.
8. What do you understand by the last two lines of the poem?

Answer the following questions in about 100 words:

9. Most poet use words that are either shortened version of actual words or change the spelling. Why such changes are made by the poets?
10. How has the poet portrayed his childhood memories about the rain and his mother's activities?

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Answers

1.
 - a. 'Starry spheres' refer to the night sky abound with glowing stars.
 - b. The clouds weep gently in rainy tears to express their sadness. Humid shadows hover in the sky.
 - c. The humid shadows hovers over the night sky.
 - d. 'Melancholy' means gloom or sadness.
2.
 - a. 'Shingles' are the wooden rectangular or square tiles with which the roof is made.
 - b. The beautiful sound made by the droplets of the rain on the wooden roof echoes in the heart of the poet.
 - c. The thousand recollections are the memories of childhood that the poet recalls and reminisces.
 - d. The poet wants to listen to the patter of the rain because the sound made by the drops of the rain on the roof reverberates in his heart.
3. The drops of rain make a sound when they fall on the stone roofs. The sound made is pitter-patter and has a soothing and cooling effect on the heart and mind of the people.
4. 'A thousand recollections weave their air threads into woof' is the scene that is beautifully created by the poet to express the horizontal fall of the rain as the weft is used in the warp to weave a cloth. Similarly, dropping rain looks like the thread woven in the air.
5. The poet wanted to express the sadness that is spread in the world and compares it with dark clouds that lingered on the sky and bring rain, when he said, "And the melancholy darkness gently weeps in rainy tears". Clouds are compared with human being and rain drops with tears.
6. The fancies the poet is talking about are the fascinating thoughts that he used to get in his childhood on seeing the rain. His imagination used to run riot and make different plans and actions.
7. 'As I list to this refrain' refers to the sound of the rain. List is abbreviated form of word 'listen' thus expressing listen to the repeated sound made by the falling rain drops.

8. The last two lines of the poem are the part of the refrain the poet has used to express the mesmerizing sound of the rain when it falls on the wooden tiles of the roof.
9. Most poet use words that are either shortened version of actual words or change the spelling. Such changes are made by the poets to make their poems look musical and give a feeling that makes a lasting effect on the mind of the reader. These words get etched in the minds of the readers and they come back as beautiful memories. In this poem, the poet has used the shortened version of the word 'listen' and made it 'list'. In another poem, the poet Vikram Seth (Frog and the Nightingale) used the word 'awn' for simple word 'on' to make it a rhyming word. Such small changes bring a classical effect to the poem.
10. The poet has portrayed his childhood memories in the poem. He remembers the time of the rainy season and the falling rain with dark clouds hovering over the sky. He expresses the beautiful sound made by the rain on the wooden roof tiles which he used to listen when his mother put him to bed. He also recalls the memory of his mother who probably is no more or at present not with him. He recalls the fond look that his mother used to have on whenever she put him to bed before going off for the night.