

**CBSE Class 9 English Language and Literature**  
**Beehive Poem Chapter-8 On killing a Tree**  
**Test Paper-04**

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1. Then the matter  
Of scorching and choking  
In sun and air,  
Browning, hardening,  
Twisting, withering,  
And then it is done.
  - a. What is the matter discussed here?
  - b. What is browning?
  - c. To whom browning, hardening, twisting & withering required?
  - d. 'Then it is done' What is that which is done?
2. It is to be roped, tied,  
And pulled out — snapped out  
Or pulled out entirely,  
Out from the earth-cave,
  - a. Why does the poet want the tree to be tied?
  - b. Why the tree needs to be exposed in entirety?
  - c. Why does the poet call earth as a cave?
  - d. What is pulled out – snapped out?
3. How has the tree grow to its full size? List the words suggestive of its life and activity.
4. What is the significance of the last phase in the life of the tree?
5. What are the ideas contained in the poem 'On killing a Tree'?
6. The poem contains some ironical details. Elaborate your answer with facts.
7. How does the poet create the feeling of sadness in the poem?
8. Do you think the poet has compared the tree to some evil person?
9. The poem was written at a time when a large portion of the country had a forest cover. Does this poem have any relevance in the present time? (100 words)
10. What are the benefits and drawbacks of killing a tree that the poet enumerates in the poem? (100 words)

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**Answers**

1.
  - a. the matter discussed here is how to kill a tree.
  - b. 'Browning' here stands for exposing the root to wither.
  - c. The root requires browning, hardening, twisting and withering to kill the tree in entirety.
  - d. 'Then it is done' It is the final process in killing of a tree.
2.
  - a. The poet wants the tree to be tied so that it could be pulled out of the ground (earth).
  - b. The roots of a tree need to be exposed in entirety so that the tree is killed.
  - c. The poet call earth as a cave because it houses the roots of a tree.
  - d. The tree is pulled out – snapped out so that its roots are exposed to harsh weather.
3. The tree has grown to its full size feeding on earth's crust. The words suggestive of its life and activity are 'feeding, consuming, sprouting, Pain, bleeding, heal, expand etc.
4. The significance of the last phase in the life of the tree i.e. death is that it is allowed to wither and die by getting exposed to harsh weather like scorching heat, air and deprivation of water.
5. The ideas contained in the poem 'On killing a Tree' are as to how one can eliminate one's enemy. We need to cut out the nourishment or food supplies. We should not leave the enemy injured for he would recover and attack.
6. The poem contains some ironical details in the form of eliminating danger of a real enemy. The tree has been considered as an enemy of mankind in that it consumes the earth's crust, takes the water and reduces water table and consumes the air fit for man.
7. The poet creates the feeling of sadness in the poem by talking about the pain inflicted on the tree, bleeding of the bark and the process of pulling out roots and leaving them to die like an injured person is left without treatment.
8. Yes, I think the poet has compared the tree to some evil person, otherwise who on the earth would like to kill a tree which is beneficial to mankind. It gives us shade, its leaves, branches and stems provide wood for fire and heating and finally it provides oxygen to the air in which we breathe.

9. The poem was written at a time when a large portion of the country had a forest cover. We all know the benefits that we derive from the trees. We are coaxed and cajoled to grow more trees in order to keep our atmosphere stable. Global warming is already taking its toll. Glaciers are melting, small streams of water are drying, earth is parched, and vegetation is disappearing. Many species of animals and birds have become extinct or are at the verge of becoming extinct. Thus, it has lost its relevance in the present time.
10. 'On Killing a Tree' by Gieve Patel describes two things. First, it speaks of the meticulous task of killing a tree. Then it tells us about the perversity and tragedy of such action, about man's systematic destruction of the environment. The poet invokes Nature's resistance in the first two stanzas through the images of a feeding tree and a healing tree. In the following two stanzas he creates a sense of hunting in the methodical form of the execution of a tree. The poem, from its beginning to the end, describes in detail the process and consequences of killing a tree. Hence it is suggestive of benefits and drawbacks of killing a tree. drives the poet's point home in a superb way.