

**CBSE Class 9 English Language and Literature**  
**Beehive Poem Chapter-8 On killing a Tree**  
**Test Paper-02**

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1. Rising out of it, feeding

Upon its crust, absorbing

Years of sunlight, air, water,

And out of its leprous hide

Sprouting leaves

- a. What is rising out of what?
- b. Who is feeding upon its crust?
- c. What is leprous hide?
- d. Who needs 'years of sunlight, air, water & why'?

2. And from close to the ground

Will rise curled green twigs,

Miniature boughs

Which if unchecked will expand again

To former size.

- a. What are curled twigs?
- b. Describe 'Miniature boughs'.
- c. What would expand to its former size?
- d. Why has the poet used the words 'if unchecked'?

3. Why has the poet called earth as anchoring?

4. Why do we need to expose the strength of the tree?

5. What are the methods that have been described by the poet to kill a tree?

6. What is the source of strength of a tree?

7. What is the source of nourishment for a tree?

8. What is the most sensitive part of a tree that is white, wet and hidden?

**Answer the following questions in about 100 words:**

9. What were the circumstances that led the poet to write this poem?

10. How does a tree bounce back if not killed properly?

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**Answers**

1.
  - a. The tree is rising out of the earth.
  - b. The tree roots are feeding upon its crust.
  - c. 'Leprous hide' is the bark of the tree that has developed sores and appears like a leper's skin.
  - d. The tree needs 'years of sunlight, air, water' to develop and grow.
2.
  - a. Curled twigs are the mushrooming new branches that sprout from the cut and torn parts of a tree.
  - b. 'Miniature boughs' are the small branches that sprout.
  - c. The tree would expand to its former size.
  - d. The poet has used the words 'if unchecked' to give emphasis to the word unchecked to express that things go out of hand if remain unchecked.
3. The poet called earth as anchoring because the earth gives shelter to the roots of the tree and provides it the nourishment required by it.
4. We need to expose the strength of the tree i.e. we need to expose the roots to rough weather. The heat of the scorching sun would burn the roots, air will make it wither and will not get water from the earth for nourishment.
5. The method that have been described by the poet to kill a tree is to uproot it by pulling out of the earth. Its roots are to be exposed to sun, air and be deprived of water to wither and die.
6. The source of strength of a tree is the air, water and sunlight. Its leaves take sunlight and air and make food. The roots take water from the earth and nourish the stems and leaves thus giving strength to the whole tree.
7. The source of nourishment for a tree is food and water. The food is prepared by leaves through photosynthesis and roots take water.
8. The most sensitive part of a tree that is white, wet and hidden is the root. It is the strength of the tree. It binds the earth to the soil.
9. The poet must have something in his mind when he wrote this poem as no one in his

senses would like to propagate murder or killing of a tree. It seems, he considered tree as the enemy of the man because it consumed the nourishment from the earth and stole sunlight air and water. The man is considered as the one who can take revenge from such a thief. Thus, he decides to write a poem to inform others about the methods to kill a tree. Every law pardons a person if he kills someone in self-defense.

10. A tree if not killed properly bounces back to life as its sap gives freedom and nourishment to the new sprouting twigs and allows them to grow to their former size. The bleeding bark becomes the place for new sprouting twigs. These twigs grow into boughs and then mature to become a tree. A jab of knife is not at all sufficient as the tree is unlike man. Man is sensitive and has a very soft skin. His life is completely different to a tree. Tree has a hard-brown hide (bark) which protects it from getting damaged. Therefore, if we need to kill a tree, we need to uproot it, expose its roots to sunlight and air without nourishment of water.