



INDIAN SCHOOL AL WADI AL KABIR
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH (2023-24)

QUESTION BANK – THE LAKE ISLE OF INNISFREE.

Class: IX

Sub: ENGLISH

Summary:

The poet dreams of escaping the busy streets of London. He remembers Innisfree as a perfect little island that would supply all his needs. This poem explores his longing for the peace and tranquility of Innisfree where he spent a lot of time as a boy.

The poet describes Innisfree as a simple, natural environment where he will build a cabin and live alone. He dreams of living on beans and honey which he will cultivate himself. He imagines finding harmony on the island. He dreams of living in a delightful climate there and listening to the songbirds at dusk. He decides to leave the busy streets of London and settle in Innisfree. He is obsessed with the sound of lake water. He wishes to escape to a beautiful place with wonderful light and colour.

Multiple Choice Questions:

Reference-to-Context Questions

Read the following stanzas carefully and choose the correct option.

1. 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) Why does the poet wish to live alone? Pick out the most suitable reason.
- (i) because he feels drained out in the city.
 - (ii) he is nostalgic about the tranquil Innisfree where he spent his childhood.
 - (iii) he wants to be away from the meaningless existence of a city.
 - (iv) he wants to be one with nature.

Ans: he is nostalgic about the tranquil Innisfree where he spent his childhood.

- (b) The rhyme scheme of the stanza is _____
- (i) abab
 - (ii) aabb
 - (iii) aaba
 - (iv) free verse

Ans: abab.

(c) The poet uses the word 'go' twice in line 1 to show _____

- (i) his hesitation (ii) his resolve (iii) his joy (iv) his distress.

Ans: his resolve.

(d) Identify the poetic device in 'And live alone in the bee-loud glade'.

- (i) simile (ii) alliteration (iii) personification (iv) repetition

Ans: alliteration

(e) What is the most significant thought behind 'live alone in the bee-loud glade'?

- (i) the poet wishes to be alone
(ii) he wants to be away from the noisy, crowded city
(iii) he wishes to enjoy open spaces with only the meditative buzz of the bees
(iv) he would like to be with himself

Ans: he wishes to enjoy open spaces with only the meditative buzz

2 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) The meaning of 'for peace comes dropping slow' is

- (i) peace will come slowly to the poet
(ii) his stress level will take time to reduce
(iii) life in Innisfree is slow and unhurried
(iv) days and nights are long in the Lake isle

Ans: life in Innisfree is slow and unhurried.

(b) The figure of speech in 'the veils of the morning' is

- (i) personification (ii) metaphor (iii) alliteration (iv) simile

Ans: metaphor

(c) What does the poet mean by 'Dropping from the veils of the morning to where the cricket sings'?

- (i) mornings are misty in Innisfree
(ii) the days are bright
(iii) one can hear the crickets sing at night
(iv) from sunrise to sunset, the day flows like a leisurely river.

Ans: from sunrise to sunset, the day flows like a leisurely river.

(d) "Midnight's all a glimmer" refers to

- (i) the moon shines bright
(ii) stars twinkle in the night sky
(iii) the sky is a carpet of stars

(iv) the night sky is radiant

Ans: the sky is a carpet of stars.

(e) By the phrase ‘And evenings full of the linnet’s wings’ the poet means

(i) there is a range of birds in Innisfree

(ii) the sky seems to be concealed by the birds in the evening

(iii) Innisfree teems with the lively finches and their flapping wings

(iv) one can watch the birds fly back to their nests

Ans: Innisfree teems with the lively finches and their flapping wings

Short Answer Questions:

1. “Nine bean-rows will I have there, a hive for the honey bee”. Where does the poet wish to go? What does he want to do there?

The poet wants to go to Innisfree. He wants to grow nine rows of beans there and have a hive for honeybee. He wishes to enjoy peaceful moments at Innisfree.

2. How will the poet enjoy his stay ‘night and day’ at Innisfree?

The poet is fascinated by the beauty and peace at Innisfree. He finds it an ideal place. He shall hear the lake water lapping the shore with low sounds. At night, he shall look and enjoy the glimmer. He shall enjoy seeing the moon glow purple. His stay at Innisfree will be joyful.

3. “Lake water lapping with low sounds”. Explain

The poet wants to go to Innisfree, an ideal peaceful island. He celebrates the beauty of the place. The expression, “I hear the lake water lapping with sounds by shore” describes the beautiful natural environment in Isle of Innisfree.

4. What does the poet hear in his ‘heart’s core’ even when he is far away from Innisfree?

The poet is far away from the Island of Innisfree in London. He hears the lake water lapping the shore with low sounds in his heart’s core.

5. “Midnight’s all a glimmer, and noon a purple glow. And evening full of the linnet’s wings” How would the poet enjoy his time at Innisfree?

The poet would enjoy his mornings, evenings and midnights in the lap of nature. The midnight would look glimmering like the glowing of the glowworms and stars. He would enjoy his evenings watching the colourful wings of the flying linnets.

Long Answer Questions:

1. What ideas do you form about the personality of the poet from the poem?

The poet’s desire to return to a peaceful, quiet, and natural place, away from the bustle of urban life, brings forth the governing positive value of his life. He emerges as a peace-loving fellow who is sick at the hectic restless, noisy and materialistic life of the cities. His strong nostalgia for the beautiful sights and sounds on Lake Isle and his

desire to lead a simple life of unbroken solitude and peace on the island reveals the simplicity of his heart and mind.

He can hear the sounds of the bees, the cricket, the linnet, and the sea waves. He can visualise the tranquil glade, the glimmering light of midnight, and the purple glow of the afternoon. He can also hear the loud, unpleasant sounds of the traffic in cities and contrast it with the captivating and soothing music of the waves. Further, the poet lacks a materialistic attitude towards life. He wants to evade the hectic activities of the materialistic life of the cities and live in a small cabin of clay and wattles. He wants to have only enough to fulfil the basic needs of life. Thus, the poet comes forth as a person with a profound imagination, minute observation, strong memories, and a deep love for nature. He is inspired by the value of contentment and harmony.

2. The isle of Innisfree is both a place and the poet's state of mind. Discuss the statement in the context of the poem.

The isle of Innisfree is a tiny uninhabited island within Lake Lough Gill in County Sligo in northwestern Ireland. The poet, William Butler Yeats, spent his summers over here when he was a young boy. The calm, quiet, soothing environment of this isle impressed him so much that he developed a spiritual kinship with this place. He can now hear voices calling within himself just as he heard the sounds of nature in Innisfree. The existence of Innisfree as the poet's state of mind is as true as the real Innisfree. The images of this place haunt the poet in such a manner that he can visualize everything not in his mind but in his heart. The real place has given him such beautiful memories that he cherishes them even when he is amidst the roadways and pavements of a city. His desire to escape to Innisfree is so strong that his thoughts are overpowered by it. Thus, Innisfree is the poet's state of mind itself which stands as a symbol of peaceful existence amidst nature.