



## INDIAN SCHOOL AL WADI AL KABIR

<b>Class: VIII</b>	<b>Department: ENGLISH</b>	<b>Date: JANUARY 2024</b>
<b>Question Bank No: 30</b>	<b>Topic: THE HUMAN SEASONS</b>	<b>Note: To be done in English notebook</b>

### SUMMARY

"The Human Seasons" by John Keats is one of the famous poems that talks of man and his relationship with nature. The poem talks of man's nature like the four seasons - spring, summer, autumn and winter.

Keats begins his poem by stating the simple known fact that "*Four seasons fill the measure of the year*". Then he starts personifying these seasons as man's four seasons of mind.

First is the spring that is "*lusty*", symbolizing the vigor and excitement of man's youthful life.

Second comes the summer season. In this season, man thinks of sweet things, even dreaming as high as that can reach the heavens.

Third is the season of autumn, when he begins to lose a bit of faith and liveliness of life. He is just "*contented so to look / On mists in idleness*".

Lastly comes the winter, the cold, cruel and "*pale misfeature*".

By the symbols of seasons used, Keats identifies them as birth, youth, maturity/adulthood and eventually old age or death. The excitement and lively theme begins to decrease and wane as it moves from season to season.

So, just as seasons change from being beautiful and cheery to something bleak and gloomy, so also man's life is the same. The cycle continues, however much we may want it to stop.

### ❖ LITERARY DEVICES

#### 1. Metaphor

Keats employs metaphorical language to link the human experience with the cyclical nature of the seasons. He equates the four seasons with various stages in human life.





## 2. Imagery

Throughout the poem, vivid imagery is utilized to paint a visual representation of each season and its corresponding emotional state. Keats skillfully evokes sensory details, allowing readers to immerse themselves in the poem and experience the sights, sounds, and sensations associated with each season.

### Answer these questions.

**1. How has the poet described the Spring season of a human's life?**

Answer: The poet has described the spring season as 'lusty' which refers to vigor and excitement of the youth.

**2. According to the poet, what does a human think about?**

Answer: According to the poet, man thinks about all the sweet things and dreams of the heights that he can reach.

**3. When does a human's soul has 'quiet coves'? What does the poet mean by that?**

Answer: The human soul has quiet coves in Autumn. The poet means that humans generally begin to lose a bit of faith and liveliness of life during this season.

**4. How does the poet describe the winter of a human?**

Answer: The winter is described as a pale misfeature.

### Explain these lines with reference to the context.

**1. Takes in all the beauty with an easy span...**

**a. Who takes in all the beauty?**

**b. What does he do?**

Answers:

1.a. Humans take in all the beauty.

1.b. Humans take in all the experiences happily.

### Think and answer.

**1. Write a short note on the imagery used in the poem?**

Answer:

- The poet describes the seasons of the year as the seasons in the mind of a human. He describes each season differently. He calls the spring as 'lusty' when everything is fancy clear, which means anything seems possible and he observes 'all beauty'. The idea is that during that phase he can take in all the beauty in an easy span.
- He describes summer as '*honied cud of youthful thought*'. This means that man can reflect on



things with more clarity and chew and re-chew (ponder more). Man gains more enlightenment.

- He describes autumn as a stage when man enters the quiet coves. He uses words like “furleth close” its “wings” to compare man to a bird. The image of a bird, unlike that of a cow, suggests an ability to transcend or harness powers of higher imagination. This aligns with the wiser years of later adulthood and the introspection it brings.
- According to the poet, winter brings pale misfeature which refers to death.
- The imagery is very clearly exposed: Spring describes childhood, Summer describes maturity, Autumn, when men wait the final moment and Winter- the death.

**2. Why has the poet described Autumn elaborately? Give reason.**

Answer: The phase of life expressed in Autumn is the longest phase in a man’s life, hence the highest number of lines in the poem expresses longevity.

