



Brain International School

Vikas Puri, New Delhi

ASSIGNMENT NO. 4

SUBJECT: ENGLISH

CLASS-IX

OCTOBER, 2025

Beehive

Poem 8: A Slumber Did My Spirit Seal (By William Wordsworth)

Theme: The poem explores the theme of death, transcendence, and eternal peace. The speaker reflects on the death of a loved one, imagining their spirit sealed in an eternal slumber. The peaceful stillness of death is contrasted with the turmoil of life, suggesting that the soul transcends earthly suffering into a calm and undisturbed existence. It touches on the profound idea that death brings a sense of finality and peace beyond human comprehension.

Poetic Devices:

- **Alliteration:** The repetition of consonant sounds in close proximity.
 - Example: "A slumber did my spirit seal".
 - Example: "rolled round in earth's diurnal course".
- **Enjambment:** The continuation of a sentence or phrase from one line of poetry to the next without a pause or punctuation.
 - Example: The second stanza's lines flow into each other without punctuation, creating a seamless flow of thought.
- **Imagery:** Vivid and descriptive language that appeals to the senses.
 - Example: "Rolled round in earth's diurnal course, / With rocks, and stones, and trees" creates a visual image of the deceased's body merging with nature.
- **Metaphor:** An extended comparison between two unlike things, where one thing is described as being another.
 - Example: The entire second stanza acts as a metaphor for death and the transformation into the natural world.
- **Rhyme Scheme:** The pattern of rhymes at the end of each line.
 - Example: The poem follows a consistent ABAB CDCD rhyme scheme.
- **Repetition:** The repeated use of words or phrases for emphasis or musicality.
 - Example: The repeated use of "no" in the second stanza ("no motion," "no force")

Answer the following questions.

1. How does the poet describe the transition of the speaker's spirit after death?
2. In what way does the phrase "a slumber did my spirit seal" convey a sense of peace and finality?
3. How does the poet contrast life and death through the imagery in the poem?
4. What role does nature play in the depiction of the deceased's eternal rest?
5. How does the poem reflect the poet's beliefs about the afterlife?

Chapter 8: Kathmandu (By Vikram Seth)

Theme: The poem *Kathmandu* reflects the poet's experience of visiting the city of Kathmandu, Nepal. It explores the contrast between the sacred, serene atmosphere of the city and the personal emotions of the poet. The chapter highlights the richness of culture, the contrast between the spiritual and mundane, and the poet's contemplation of life and death. The city of Kathmandu stands as a symbol of beauty, spiritual peace, and mystery.

Answer the following questions.

1. How does the poet describe the city of Kathmandu and its spiritual essence?
2. What is the significance of the temples and the atmosphere around them in the chapter?
3. How does the author describe the atmosphere of the streets in Kathmandu, and what makes them vibrant and chaotic?
4. Discuss the contrasting elements of nature, culture, and spirituality in the chapter *Kathmandu*.

Chapter 9: If I Were You (By Douglas James)

Theme: *If I Were You* is a play centered on a conversation between a playwright, Gerrard, and a man (intruder) who tries to rob him. The theme of the play revolves around quick thinking, self-awareness, and personal identity. Gerrard uses his wit to outsmart the intruder and turn the situation in his favor. The play emphasizes the importance of calmness, intelligence, and self-confidence in the face of danger.

Answer the following questions.

1. How does Gerrard outsmart the intruder using his intelligence and quick thinking?
2. What does the play reveal about Gerrard's personality and his sense of identity?
3. How does the intruder's behavior evolve throughout the play, and what is its significance?

3. How does the theme of mistaken identity play a role in the development of the plot?
4. What lessons about self-confidence and wit can be drawn from Gerrard's actions?

Moments

Chapter 5: The Happy Prince (By Oscar Wilde)

Theme: *The Happy Prince* is a story of selflessness, compassion, and sacrifice. The Prince, once a joyful figure in life, becomes aware of the suffering of his people after his death. With the help of a swallow, he gives away all his treasures to alleviate their pain. The story emphasizes the values of empathy and kindness over material wealth, presenting a critique of social inequalities and highlighting the importance of love and compassion for humanity.

Answer the following questions.

1. What is the significance of the Happy Prince's transformation after his death?
2. How does the swallow contribute to the overall message of the story?
3. Discuss the sacrifices made by the Happy Prince and how they reflect his compassion.
4. Analyze the role of material wealth in the story, and how does it contrast with the idea of selflessness?
5. Discuss how does '*The Happy Prince*' critiques social inequality and the concept of compassion?