



SUBJECT: ENGLISH

ASSIGNMENT NO.2
CLASS - XI

JULY

Discovering Tut : The Saga Continues

“Discovering Tut: The Saga Continues” chronicles researchers’ quest to unravel King Tut’s death using advanced archaeological methods. Contrasting Carter’s 1922 techniques with today’s technology, it highlights collaborative efforts, forensic reconstructions, and the significance of tomb artifacts, showcasing the evolution of archaeological practices.

1. AR Williams asserts that “King Tut, in both life and death, moves regally ahead of his countrymen.” To what extent do you agree with this assertion, and what are the reasons for your stance?
2. The 1922 discovery of Tut’s tomb revealed that much of its treasure had already been plundered. This scenario reflects a materialistic attitude that even disrupts the peace of the deceased. Is there a possibility of this attitude ever being eradicated?
3. How has the fascination with Tut’s mummy captivated both scientists and the general public over the past decades?
4. What was considered the so-called “curse of the Pharaoh” during the examination of Tut’s mummy?
5. What items were included in what has been described as ‘the richest royal collection ever discovered’?

Laburnum Top

Theme : The central theme of “The Laburnum Top” is the vitality and energy that nature brings. The poem shows how a seemingly lifeless and silent laburnum tree suddenly becomes full of movement, sound, and life when a goldfinch arrives. The bird’s presence transforms the tree, highlighting the interdependence between living creatures and their environment.

Poetic Devices

- Simile: Compares the bird's smooth, quick movement to a reptile ("*sleek as a lizard*").
- Metaphor: Compares the noisy chicks to a mechanical system ("*machine starts up*") and the mother to the power source ("*engine of her family*").
- Personification: Gives the tree human-like emotions and movement ("*tree trembles and thrills*").
- Alliteration: Repeats the same starting consonant sounds ("*September sunlight*" and "*tree trembles*").
- Onomatopoeia: Uses sound words to mimic nature ("*chirrup*", "*chitterings*", "*trillings*", and "*whisperings*").

1. Read the extract and answer the questions that follow:

*"Then sleek as a lizard, and alert, and abrupt,
She enters the thickness, and a machine starts up
Of chitterings, and a tremor of wings, and trillings—
The whole tree trembles and thrills."*

(a) Why is the goldfinch compared to a lizard?

(b) What does the phrase "*a machine starts up*" suggest?

(c) Which statement best explains the transformation of the tree?

- (i) The tree becomes greener after the bird arrives.
- (ii) The arrival of the goldfinch fills the tree with life and activity.
- (iii) The bird damages the tree while entering the nest.
- (iv) The tree begins to produce flowers instantly.

(d) Pen down one poetic device used in "*The whole tree trembles and thrills.*"

2. The goldfinch acts as a symbol of energy, care, and responsibility. Discuss with reference to the poem.

3. The poet describes the goldfinch as "**the engine of her family.**"

Analyse this metaphor. How does it highlight the bird's role as a caregiver? What values can humans learn from her sense of responsibility?

4. "*The Laburnum Top* celebrates the life-giving power of nature." Justify the statement with reference to the poem.

The Address

"The Address" by Marga Minco explores the personal crises caused by war, depicting the pain, grief, and mental anguish experienced by survivors. The narrator, a Jewish woman returning home post-war, learns the futility of material possessions amidst immense loss, ultimately finding self-actualization amidst the world's cruelty and oppression.

1. What did the narrator recall about her initial meeting with Mrs. Dorling?
2. Why did the narrator wish to forget the location associated with Mrs. Dorling?
3. What motivated the narrator to revisit Marconi Street after an extended period?
4. Why did Mrs. Dorling choose not to acknowledge the author's identity?
5. In what ways does the assertion "Wars inflict profound psychological damage" resonate with the events described in "The Address"?