



ASSIGNMENT NO-3 SUBJECT: ENGLISH

CLASS: IX

October '26

1. No Men Are Foreign — James Kirkup

Theme: The poem conveys the universal brotherhood of humanity and challenges the idea that people from other countries are fundamentally different from us. The poet reminds us that all human beings share the same earth, air, sunlight and basic needs. War and hatred harm everyone and damage the very world that sustains us. By recognising our shared humanity, we can reject prejudice and work towards peace and understanding.

Questions

1. Why does the poet say that no men are strange and no countries foreign?
2. How does the poem show that people across the world share similar experiences and needs?
3. Explain how the images of the earth, air, sunlight and water strengthen the idea of human unity.
4. Why does the poet consider war and hatred to be harmful to all humanity?
5. “Beneath all uniforms, a single body breathes.” Explain the significance of this idea in the context of the poem.

2. My Childhood — A. P. J. Abdul Kalam

Theme: The autobiographical chapter describes the early life of A. P. J. Abdul Kalam in Rameswaram and the values he learnt from his family and community. His parents taught him simplicity, honesty and generosity. His friendships with children from different religious backgrounds reflected communal harmony, while certain incidents of discrimination made him aware of social prejudice. The chapter highlights the importance of education, tolerance and standing up against unfair practices.

Questions

1. How does Abdul Kalam describe his parents, and what values did he learn from them?
2. Describe Kalam’s friendship with Ramanadha Sastry, Aravindan and Sivaprakasan. What does it reveal about the society in which he grew up?
3. What incident took place when a new teacher saw Kalam sitting with Ramanadha Sastry? How was the situation addressed?
4. How did Sivasubramania Iyer help Kalam broaden his outlook? What lesson did Kalam learn from him?
5. How does the chapter highlight the importance of communal harmony and equality?
6. Which qualities of Abdul Kalam’s childhood do you find most inspiring? Support your answer with examples from the chapter.

3. On Killing a Tree — Gieve Patel

Theme: The poem presents the destruction of a tree as a difficult and deliberate process. A tree grows over many years by drawing nourishment from the earth, and simply cutting its trunk does not end its life. The poet describes how the roots must be pulled out and exposed to the sun and air for the tree to die completely. Through this vivid description, the poem draws attention to the strength of nature and may also be read as a criticism of humanity's destructive attitude towards the environment.

Questions

1. Why does the poet suggest that a simple cut or a blow cannot kill a tree?
2. How does the description of the tree's growth emphasise its strength and connection with the earth?
3. What is the significance of the tree's roots in the poem?
4. How do the words and images used by the poet make the process of killing a tree appear prolonged and forceful?
5. The poem describes the destruction of a tree in detail. What message about human beings' relationship with nature can readers draw from it?