



ANSWER SHEET – HARVEST HYMN

Class: VIII

Sub: ENGLISH

I. Fill in the blanks with information from the poem.

1. The lord of the harvest is _____.
2. Surya is worshipped with golden things because _____.
3. Varuna is responsible for _____.
4. The women praise Prithvi because _____.
5. The singers honour the three Gods who give them the harvest by _____.
6. The queen of the harvest is _____.
7. Farmers praise Lord Surya with _____ and _____.
8. The sender of rain and dewfall is _____.
9. The giver of mellowing radiance is _____.
10. The lord of the morning is _____.

Answers:

1. Lord Surya
2. Lord Surya is a form of Agni which is golden in colour
3. rainfall and dew
4. she is the giver of various gifts
5. singing a hymn and offering their produce
6. Goddess Prithvi
7. cymbal and flute
8. Lord Varuna
9. Lord Surya
10. Lord Surya

II. Match these words with their opposites.

<u>WORD</u>	<u>OPPOSITE</u>
1. nurture	a. curse
2. bounty	b. dull
3. prosper	c. blame
4. bright	d. languish
5. beneficent	e. debt
6. riches	f. neglect
7. praise	g. malicious
8. foster	h. few
9. garner	i. neglect
10. manifold	j. disperse

Answer:

<u>WORD</u>	<u>OPPOSITE</u>
1 nurture	neglect
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4 bright	dull
5 beneficent	malicious
6 riches	debt
7 praise	blame
8 foster	neglect
9 garner	disperse
10 manifold	few

III. Find two synonyms for each word

- | | | |
|---------------|------------------|-------------------|
| 1. opulent | <u>affluent</u> | <u>sumptuous</u> |
| 2. cherished | <u>adore</u> | <u>appreciate</u> |
| 3. manifold | <u>myriad</u> | <u>abundant</u> |
| 4. munificent | <u>generous</u> | <u>lavish</u> |
| 5. tribute | <u>accolade</u> | <u>homage</u> |
| 6. beneficent | <u>bountiful</u> | <u>humane</u> |
| 7. hail | <u>acclaim</u> | <u>glorify</u> |
| 8. harvest | <u>reap</u> | <u>garner</u> |
| 9. worship | <u>reverence</u> | <u>laud</u> |
| 10. praise | <u>commend</u> | <u>applaud</u> |

IV. Answer the following questions (in one or two sentences)

1. Why do the farmers thank the various gods?

Answer: The farmers thank the various gods for blessing them with a rich harvest.

2. Which God prospered the sowing of the farmers and how?

Answer: Lord Surya prospered the sowing of the farmers with his warm sunlight which helped the crops to ripe.

3. Which God's mercy do the farmers seek and why?

Answer: The farmers seek for Lord Varuna's mercy because he is the sender of rainfall and the crops wont ripe until it gets enough water.

V. Answer the following questions in not more than one paragraph.

1. Comment on the theme of the poem, "Harvest Hymn".

Answer: The poem 'Harvest Hymn' is a hymn of adoration and thanks giving to four great deities responsible for a rich harvest. The poem shows a group of men and women who praise various Gods with a beautiful hymn. They offer their harvest to the Gods because they are obliged by the God's help. They realize and appreciate the help provided by various Gods and Goddesses. So they sing for them and offer them their produce.

2. "We owe a debt to nature", give reasons for your answer.

Answer: We owe a debt to nature because everything that humans use is directly or indirectly provided by nature. Food grains, fruits and vegetables are some of the products which are directly provided by nature. And clothes, various metals, etc. are some products which are indirectly provided by nature. So we can say that we do owe a debt to nature.

3. In what ways did Lord Surya help the farmers?

Answer: Lord Surya is the giver of sunshine which helps the crops to ripe. He is the one who helps the crops to grow by his warm and bright sunrays. All crops that farmers sow are sown during a particular period and they are supposed to receive sunshine for a stipulated number of days so that the can completely ripe and be ready for consumption.

4. Lord Varuna fostered and cherished the sowings of the farmers, briefly explain how?

Answer: Lord Varuna fostered and cherished the sowings of the farmers by providing them rainfall and dewfall. He is the Water God and it is his help which provides water to the crops sown by the farmers. Without his help and mercy the crops would dry and die. Therefore it is Lord Varuna who fostered and cherished the farmers' sowings.

5. How important do you think are farmers for us?

Answer: Farmers are very important for all humans. Farmers are an important part of the survival of our various societies because they provide food and fiber that nourishes and cloths us. They make responsible use of natural resources and utilize both primitive and very advanced technologies to accomplish this. They are responsible for all crops and livestock that are needed for us to survive.

VI. Read the following extracts and answer the questions that follow:

1. *“Lord of the rainbow, lord of the harvest, Great and beneficent lord of the main!
Thine is the mercy that cherished our furrows, Thine is the mercy that fostered our grain.”*

(a) Which God is addressed in the above extract?

Answer: Lord Varuna is addressed in the above extract.

(b) What do you mean by main in the above extract?

Answer: With reference to the poem, main means water or sea.

(c) How did the God show his mercy?

Answer: God showed his mercy by providing rainfall to the farmers at the right time and in the right amount for the crops to grow.

(d) How do the farmers praise the God addressed in the extract?

Answer: The farmers praise Lord Varuna by addressing him as a kind lord who provides them water for their crops. They offer their thanks to Lord Varuna with garlands and the produce of their fields which are fresh and ripe. They praise him with cymbal and pipe which are musical instruments.

2. *“Lord of the Lotus, lord of the harvest, Bright and munificent lord of the morn!
Thine is the bounty that prospered our sowing, Thine is the bounty that nurtured our corn.”*

(a) Which God is addressed in the above extract?

Answer: Lord Surya is addressed in the above extract.

(b) What do you mean by the word morn in the above extract?

Answer: According to the poem, morn means morning.

(c) What did the farmers offer the God as tribute?

Answer: The farmers offer Lord Surya the best of their crops and the best of their fruits along with their beautiful songs and garlands.

(d) How the God prospered the farmer's sowing?

Answer: Lord Surya has prospered the farmer's sowing by providing them sunlight which is very important for the crops to grow healthy and it is important for the crops to ripe.

3. *“Queen of the gourd flower, queen of the harvest, Sweet and omnipotent mother, O Earth! Thine is the plentiful bosom that feeds us, Thine is the womb where our riches have birth.”*

(a) Why Mother Earth is called the queen of the harvest?

Answer: Mother Earth is a Goddess and a very important means to grow crops. Therefore the farmers address her as the queen of the harvest.

(b) What was offered to the Goddess as tribute by the farmers?

Answer: The farmers offer Goddess Prithvi the rich and varied crops which they had produced with her help and blessings. They also offer her their love along with garlands.

(c) What are the various gifts provided by Goddess Earth?

Answer: The various gifts are referred to the various types of crops that are produced by the farmers by the help of Goddess Earth.

(d) Why is she called the source of manifold gladness?

Answer: Goddess Prithvi is called the source of manifold gladness because she provides land to the farmers and other natural resources which the farmers use to produce different kinds of food grains, vegetables and fruits. Therefore the farmers address her as the giver of all the different types of agricultural products.

VII. Write a short poem in praise of the people in your family.

Answer: In your own words.
