



QUESTION BANK ON RAIN ON THE ROOF 2020-21

Class: IX

Sub: ENGLISH

Long answer questions:

Q.1. What is the message conveyed by the poem 'Rain on the Roof'?

The poet wants to convey the message that nature too exhibits its grief and pleasure. First, he says that the dark rain clouds float in the air and cover the starry sky. The sky has been shining with stars, but is now covered and appears dark. It shows the anxiety or unhappiness of the sky.

Then the raindrops fall like tears due to sadness. But the pattering of the rain gives pleasure to the poet who has been lying in a room. The poet becomes lost in old memories while listening to the musical pattering of the rain. It creates echoes in his heart. He remembers his mother in his dreams. Even when the rain stops, he feels the benevolent look of his mother.

Q.2. How can you say that the poet loved his mother very much?

When it rains, the poet lies in his bed in the cottage and old memories come rushing back to him. He remembers his mother and recalls how his mother used to tell him stories while putting him to bed as a child. The poet has very fond memories of his mother looking after him and his siblings while they were asleep. She was very particular to tuck her in their beds and visit them after they have fallen asleep, to check that they were sleeping comfortably. The author admired this habit of his mother. This shows that he loved his mother very much.

Q.3 Dreams hold importance in the poet's life. Is it true? Explain.

This poem is depicting the overall mood on a rainy night. During night the humid cloud full of water creates dark shadows over the star-studded sky. The poet dreams about his mother and the way she used to tuck him in bed. The poet's dream of his mother, reminds him of his childhood days. His mother used to tell stories to lull him into sleep full of dreams. The music being played on the rooftop is like the affectionate look by which his mother used to see him, while he was a kid. So, dreams make him realize the importance of past and the things that he now misses.

Q.4. What happens when the poet listens to the patter of the rain? Do you think that rain is a narrative tool in the poet's life?

The rain drops play music on the roof and create a sound of pitter-patter. To the poet this music is blissful. At the beginning of the poem there is certain tinge of sadness around, which starts to weep away with the coming of raindrops. Every raindrop on the tiles of the roof creates a rhythm with the poet's heartbeat. The poet tries to focus on listening to the pitter- patter on the roof whereas, his mind weaves the recollections of fond memories of yester years.

Rain bears a subtle link with all aspects of life. It serves as a powerful narrative tool in the poet's life. It has added a layer of depth and fullness to the situation where the poet is concerned. It delivers an effective voice which communicates the suitable moment of time and space as well as emotions of the protagonist in a more poignant manner than mere words would do.

MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS

Choose the correct answer:

1.Name the poet of 'Rain on the Roof'.

- a) **Coates Kinney**
- b) Robert Frost
- c) Phoebe Cary
- d) Vikram Seth

2.Name the poetic device in the 'patter of the rain'.

- a) Alliteration
- b) Onomatopoeia
- c) **Refrain**
- d) Personification

3.The poet has memories of his _____

- a) Father
- b) **Mother**
- c) Friend
- d) Brother

4. The word 'shingles' mean _____

- a) **Rectangular wooden tiles used as roof**
- b) Singing
- c) Windows
- d) The frame of the door

5.Who are the darling dreamers?

- a) **the poet and his siblings**
- b) the school children
- c)the street children
- d) none of these

6. What does the poet listen to?

- a) the sweet music of insects
- b) the sweet music of the piano
- c) **the sweet music of raindrops**

d) all of these

7. What tinkles on the shingles?

- a) **raindrops**
- b) brass-bells
- c) hailstones
- d) bangles

8. Name the figure of speech in the following verse,

*'And a thousand recollections
Weave their air-threads into woof'*

- a) Personification
- b) **Metaphor**
- c) Alliteration
- d) Refrain

9. Give the synonym of 'melancholy'

- a) happy
- b) **sad**
- c) thrilled
- d) scared

10. Name the figure of speech in the following line,

'When the humid shadows hover'

- a) Simile
- b) **Transferred Epithet**
- c) Metaphor
- d) personification

Read the following extracts and answer the questions that follow: -

*When the humid shadows hover
Overall the starry spheres
And the melancholy darkness
Gently weeps in rainy tears,
What a bliss to press the pillow
Of a cottage-chamber bed
And like listening to the patter
Of the soft rain overhead!*

(a) What does the poet imply by "humid shadow?"

Ans: By "humid shadows", the poet implies the clouds full of rain.

(b) What does the phrase "starry spheres" refer to?

Ans: The phrase "starry spheres" refers to the sky filled with numerous stars shining at night.

(c) What does the poet consider to be a ‘bliss’ in the rainy season?

Ans: In the rainy season when the showers are falling on the roof, the poet considers it bliss to lie comfortably in the bed pressing his head against the pillow.

(d) Which poetic device has been used in “lie listening”?

Ans: In “lie listening”, the poetic device used is alliteration as ‘l’ sound is repeated.

(e) Which poetic device has been used in the third and fourth lines?

Ans: The third line employs ‘transferred epithet’ by the words “melancholy darkness”. Here darkness is not sad or melancholy but some man who is sad in the darkness. The fourth line uses ‘personification’ by presenting the sadness as weeping gently by shedding tears in the form of rain.

*Every tinkle on the shingles
Has an echo in the heart;
And a thousand dreamy fancies
Into busy being start,
And a thousand recollections
Weave their air-threads into woof,
As I listen to the patter
Of the rain upon the roof.*

(a) What finds an echo in the heart of the poet?

Ans: The tinkling sound of the raindrops falling on the roof overhead finds an echo in the heart of the poet.

(b) How does this sound of the rain affect the busy mind of the poet?

Ans: The sound of the rain triggers many imaginative and fanciful ideas in the busy mind of the poet.

(c) Explain the metaphor used in “And a thousand recollection/Weave their air-threads into woof.”

Ans: Here the recollections are compared to the weavers and the memories to a fabric. The entwined memories create a unique fabric of memories.

(d) Which poetic device has been used in the last line of the stanza?

Ans: The poetic device used in the last line is alliteration as ‘r’ sound is repeated in ‘Of the **rain** upon the **roof**’.

*Now in memory comes my mother,
As she used in years ago,
To regard the darling dreamers
Ere she left them till the dawn:
O! I feel her fond look on me
As I list to this refrain
Which is played upon the shingles
By the patter of the rain.*

(a) Who comes in the memory of the poet and when?

Ans: The poet’s mother comes in his memory as he sleeps in his bedchamber on a rainy night when rain lashes the tiles of the roof of his house.

(b) What does the poet remember about his mother?

Ans: The poet remembers the affectionate look of his mother as she was about to leave her children in their bedchamber for the night when she herself went to sleep in her own room.

(c) What does the poet imply by “the darling dreamers”?

Ans: By “the darling dreamers”, the poet implies the children in the family – the poet himself and his siblings – who were about to go to sleep. They would often have pleasant dreams in their sleep.

(d) What refrain is the poet talking about?

Ans: By ‘refrain’ the poet here means a song or recurring melody and, in this stanza, it refers to the musical sound of the rain.

SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS (to be answered in about 30 – 40 words each)

1. Describe the weather just before the rain starts.

Ans: As described by the poet, the weather before the rain is humid. It is dark, and the starry night sky is covered by thick clouds just before it begins to rain.

2. According to the poet, what is nature’s mood in ‘rainy darkness’?

Ans: The poet shows the darkness to be in a melancholy or sad mood. This sadness is further heightened when the poet shows the darkness to be weeping and shedding tears in the form of raindrops.

3. How is the mood of the poet contrasted with the mood of darkness?

Ans: Whereas the darkness is in a sad and gloomy mood, the poet is in a happy mood as he considers it bliss to lie comfortably in bed pressing the head against the pillow and listening to the music made by the showers of the rain.

4. Is the rain referred to in the poem a heavy downpour?

Ans: No, the rain referred to in the poem is not a heavy downpour. Instead, it is soft and gentle as is obvious from the pattering sound made by it while falling on the roof.

5. What is the impact of the tinkle of the raindrops on the poet’s heart?

Ans: The tinkle of the raindrops echo in the heart of the poet as if his heartbeat responds to every sound of the rain by its rhythm. Moreover, the rain kindles many memories in the poet’s mind and he gets lost in dreamy imagination.

6. How does the poet react to the sound of the rain falling on the roof?

Or

What is the effect of the sound of the rain on the heart and mind of the poet?

Ans: The poet’s heart and mind react strongly to the sound of the rain falling on the roof. He is in a blissful mood as he enjoys the comfort of his bedroom, leisurely listening to the music of the rain. The music stirs a corresponding echo in the heart of the poet. His heartbeat responds to the sound of the rain by its rhythmic throbbing. He gets engrossed in fanciful, dreamy thoughts. Moreover, the rain awakens many memories of the past. Particularly, it revives the memory of his mother as she looked at her children very affectionately before she went to sleep in her room. He recollects the fond, affectionate look of his mother which she cast on him. Thus, the poet’s mind and heart respond sensitively to the soft pattering sound of the rain falling on the roof.