



QUESTION BANK ON RAIN ON THE ROOF 2021-22

Class: IX

Sub: ENGLISH

**EXPLANATION OF THE POEM**

**Stanza 1**

The poet says when the shadows (dark clouds) full of humidity (moisture) hover over the starry spheres (sky full of stars) and the melancholy (sad) darkness weeps gently in rainy tears (rain droplets), the poet feels bliss (joy) while putting his head on the pillow of the bed in his chamber (room) in the cottage and listening to the patter (sound) of the soft rain overhead i.e. rain droplets falling on the top of his cottage.

In other words, the poet is explaining his experience on a rainy night. According to him, he feels joy while lying on his bed in his cottage when the clouds spread on the sky full of stars and it starts raining. The poet loves the sound of rain droplets falling on the roof of his cottage.

Note that we find two different emotions in the same sentence. First is the sorrow (sky weeping in rainy tears). The other is bliss felt by the poet while listening to this weeping of sky.

**Stanza 2**

In stanza 2, the poet says that every tinkle (sound) of rain droplets on the shingles (wooden roof of his cottage) has an echo (arise of feelings) in the heart and a thousand dreamy fancies (thoughts) become busy to start i.e. begin to reflect in his mind.

In other words, the poet says that when he hears the sound of rain droplets falling on the wooden roof of his cottage, poet's heart is filled with hundreds of thoughts and past memories.

In the next line, the poet says that a thousand recollections (past memories) weave their air-threads into woof i.e. create new imaginations and memories when he hears the sound of rain droplets on the roof.

Note that we do not find any emotions associated with those past memories as well as the new ones in this stanza.

**Stanza 3**

In the third stanza, the poet says that suddenly, the memories of his mother come to his mind. He begins to see her in the same looks which she had many years ago.

He remembers how she used to regard (i.e. kiss) her darling dreamers (i.e. her sleeping children including the poet) ere (before) leaving them for sleeping till dawn (morning). In other words, the poet remembers how his mother used to kiss him and his siblings before going to sleep.

In the next line, the poet exclaims that he feels the way she looked at him (with love) while listening (list) to the refrain (repeated sound) which is played upon (produced by) the shingles (wooden roof) by the falling of rain drops.

In other words, the poet who is still listening to the sound of rain drops falling on the wooden roof of his cottage, feels the love of his mother which he enjoyed long ago. Here the emotions of the poet seem to be mix of sorrow and joy. The poet feels joy when he thinks about the love of his mother. However, at the same time, he misses that love now and thus is sad as well.

## **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

### **EXTRA QUESTIONS-**

#### **Question 1.**

**What is the setting of the poem?**

Answer:

The poet is lying comfortably snug in his bed with his head pressed against the pillow, in a room in his cottage listening to the patter of the soft rain as it falls on the shingles of the roof.

#### **Question 2.**

**How old do you think the poet is? Justify your answer.**

Answer:

The poet is a young man. He remembers his mother looking down at him and his siblings, who are sleeping in their room, long ago. The poet's mother also is no longer alive as he says she lives on in his memories.

#### **Question 3.**

**How does the sky look before the rain falls?**

Answer:

Before the rain falls, the weather turns humid and great dark clouds gather in the sky. They cover the stars and spread darkness. The poet feels these dark clouds are gloomy and melancholic. To the poet the darkness spells despondence and gloom as the clouds – humid shadows – weep gentle tears that fall as rain.

**Question 4.**

**‘And the melancholy darkness gently weeps in rainy tears.’ Explain the phrase ‘melancholy darkness’. What does it do?**

Answer:

“Melancholy darkness” refers to the dark rain bearing clouds. The poet imagines that the clouds covering the sky are gloomy and depressed because they are heavy and grey. The poet further imagines that the clouds are weeping and their tears are falling down as rain drops.

**Question 5.**

**What is a ‘bliss’ for the poet in the poem ‘Rain on the Roof’?**

Answer:

The poet thinks it is blissful to lie in his cozy bed with his head on the pillow and listen to the sound of rain falling on the shingles of the roof. He enjoys the music of nature which arouses fantasies and memories in his mind.

**Question 6.**

**What does the poet like to do when it rains?**

Answer:

The poet likes to lie in his room in his cottage, snug in bed with his head on a pillow when it rains. It gives him the greatest pleasure.

**Question 7.**

**What feelings does the falling rain arouse in the poet in the poem ‘Rain on the Roof’?**

Answer:

The poet first describes the falling rain as the tears of the dark, gloomy clouds. However, as he lies snug in his bed, listening to the patter of rain on the shingles, the sound provides him immense pleasure and he is lost in fantasies and memories.

**Question 8.**

**What are the poet’s feelings as the rain falls on the shingles?**

Answer:

As the rain falls on the shingles, its tinkling sound creates an echo in the poet’s heart. As he listens to the patter of the raindrops on the roof, his gloom is lifted and his heart is filled with a thousand fantasies and fond memories of his mother.

**Question 9.**

**When do the ‘thousand dreamy fancies’ begin to weave in the poet’s mind? What are these fancies?**

Answer:

When the poet is in his cottage and lies in his cozy bed listening to the soft music of rain on the roof, his mind is flooded with various thoughts and imaginations. These fancies or imaginary thoughts and ideas spin threads of bright fanciful colours in his mind.

**Question 10.**

**“And a thousand dreamy fancies into busy heart.” When do the ‘thousand dreamy fancies’ begin in the poet’s heart?**

Answer:

When the poet is in his cottage and lies in his cozy bed listening to the soft music of rain on the roof, his mind is flooded with various thoughts and imaginations. The soothing sound of the gentle rain on the shingles fires his imagination.

**Question 11.**

**‘Now in memory comes my mother.’ When does the poet remember his mother? What does it show about him?**

Answer:

As the poet lies in his bed in his room in the cottage, listening to the sound of The poet loved his mother. He remembered her when he lied on his cozy bed to enjoy the sound of rain. It appears to him as if she was fondly looking at him.

**Question 12.**

**‘As I list to this refrain.’ Which kind of refrain is the poet referring to?**

Answer:

The poem is lying in his cozy bed in his cottage listening to the sound of rain falling incessantly on the roof of his cottage. Here, refrain refers to the continuous patter of the rain falling on the shingles of his roof.

**Question 13.**

**What feeling does every tinkle on the shingle create for the poet?**

Answer:

Every raindrop falling on the tiles of tile roof creates a rhythm with the poet’s heartbeat. This evokes thousands of dreams making his thoughts busy. While he focuses on the listening to the pitter- patter on the roof, his mind starts weaving recollections of fond memories of yesteryears.

**Question 14.**

**Do you think the poet is praising the healing power of rain in the poem ‘Rain on the Roof?’**

Answer:

As the poet lies in his bed, looking at the dark clouds gather, he first is filled with feelings of gloom and unhappiness. He feels the clouds are weeping and the rain is tears of these gloomy clouds. However, as he lies snug in bed, listening to the sound of rain, his gloom is lifted and his mind is filled with fantasies and fond memories. This rain and its sound resurrect the fondest memory of the poet—that of his mother—in his mind. As the rain continues, the poet tries to recollect all that caused him pain, yet at the same time lifted his spirits. The rain has thus brought comfort to him.

**Question 15.**

**Do you think the poet enjoys the rain?**

Answer:

At first when the clouds gather and rain starts, the poet is filled with dismay and gloom at the gathering darkness. His mood is sombre. However, the patter of the raindrops on the shingles soon soothes him and his mind is filled with imaginings and fond memories of his mother.

**Question 16.**

**What is the central idea of the poem ‘Rain on the Roof?’**

Answer:

The central idea of the poem 'Rain on the Roof' is that nature brings solace to the mind. The poet derives immense happiness from lying in bed listening to the sound of rain falling on the roof of his cottage. He is lost in dreams as many fancies and memories crowd his mind.

### **SHORT AND LONG ANSWER QUESTIONS-**

#### **Question 1.**

**How does the poet describe the falling rain in the poem 'Rain on the Roof'?**

Answer:

The poet first describes the falling rain as the tears of clouds. The dark rain bearing clouds appear gloomy and depressed to him. Therefore, they are weeping. Their tears fall to earth as gentle rain. However, as he listens to the patter of rain on the shingles, it provides him immense pleasure. The poet loves to hear the melodious sound of nature. He listens to the patter of soft rain on the wooden roof and is lost in fantasies. He considers it a rare happiness to listen to the patter of the rain on the roof. Rain brings to his mind memories of long gone days when he was a child, and he lay sleeping in his room along with his siblings, as his mother gazed down at them with love.

#### **Question 2.**

**How does the rain affect the poet? Describe.**

Answer:

Though at first the sight of the gathering dark clouds fills the poet's mind with dismay and unhappiness, the gentle patter of the rain falling on his roof soon soothes him. The poet lies in his cozy bed, his head on his pillow and listens to the patter of the raindrops on the shingles. The gentle sound fills him with bliss. A thousand fantasies fill his mind. He is filled with nostalgia as he remembers his mother. He recalls how his mother had looked at him and his sleeping siblings with fondness as they lay in their beds. Hence, the rain is a bliss for the poet.

#### **Question 3.**

**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?**

Answer:

The raindrops play music on the roof and create a tinkling sound on the shingles. To the poet this music is blissful. At the beginning of the poem there is certain tinge of sadness, and the poet talks of "melancholy darkness/ Gently weeps in rainy tears". However, as he lies in his cozy bed, a feeling of bliss washes over him. 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 as it evokes fantasies and nostalgia in the poet. He recalls his mother in a poignant manner.