



INDIAN SCHOOL AL WADI AL KABIR  
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

Class: X

**QUESTION BANK - For Anne Gregory (2022-23)**

### Introduction

The poem is in a form of dialogue between two people, Anne Gregory and another is identified as speaker. It could be anyone i.e. Anne's lover or a friend or the poet himself. The poem is about perception of love by different people.

### Summary

In this poem, a young man discusses why a person falls in love, i.e. what determines it. According to them, a person is not loved for his basic nature but because of his/her physical feature, i.e. outward physical appearance. It is not possible to love one for oneself. Only God can do so.

In this poem, the poet addresses young Gregory and tells her that her hair is of the same colour as honey and when it falls, the poet begins to think of her beauty being spell bound. Her hair is so beautiful that every man falls in love with her.

At this, Gregory gives response to the poet that man loves her only for her outward beauty while this outward appearance may change at any time. At this, the poet proclaims it a truth since time immemorial that man cannot easily judge a woman other than her looks. He tells Anne that she can never be ugly inward or outward even if she wishes to be so.

### Explanation

*Never shall a young man  
thrown into despair  
By those great honey coloured  
Ramparts at your ear  
Love you for yourself alone  
And not your yellow hair*

**Explanation:** The speaker, addressing Anne Gregory, says that her beautiful honey-coloured hair can make any man fall in love with her. This love is not for Anne but for her beautiful external features. Her beautiful hair is compared to wall, symbolising outer beauty. This beauty can capture any man's attention. But he may not be able to look beyond that into Anne's character. So the speaker says that no one can love Anne, for what she is. One can love her only for her beautiful yellow hair and her physical beauty.

*But I can get a hair-dye  
And set such colour there,*

*Brown or black, or carrot,  
That young men in despair  
May love me for myself alone  
And not my yellow hair*

**Explanation:** In this stanza Anne replies to the speaker that she can change the colour of her beautiful hair and dye them in black, brown or carrot. She wants to tell the speaker that anyone falling in love with her must see the actual person behind the beauty. She thinks that young men, who fall in love with her, must love her for what she is and not for her yellow hair.

*“I heard an old religious man  
But yesternight declare  
That only God, my dear,  
Could love you for yourself alone  
And not your yellow hair.”*

**Explanation:** In the last stanza, the speaker replies to Anne about the importance of love for internal beauty not the external one. The speaker talks about an old religious man, who announced that he had found a text in which it is written that only God is capable of looking beyond external beauty. He means that humans do not have the insight and understanding to look into the soul of a person. They are swayed away by the glitter of outer beauty. Therefore, only God can love Anne only for herself and not for her beauty.

### **Extract Based Questions**

**Read the following extracts carefully and answer the questions that follow.**

#### **Question 1.**

“Never shall a young man, Thrown into despair  
By those great honey-coloured Ramparts at your  
ear, Love you for yourself alone  
And not your yellow hair.”

- (a) What does ‘ramparts’ mean?
- (b) What is the colour of Anne’s hair?
- (c) What does the poet mean by, “love you for yourself alone and not your yellow hair”?
- (d) What does ‘despair’ mean in the stanza?

#### **Answer:**

- (a) Ramparts refers to wall that protects a fort. Here, it has been used metaphorically to mean the lock of hair around her ear.
- (b) Anne’s hair are honey-coloured.
- (c) The poet means that young men love Anne for her beautiful looks and not for her real character.
- (d) Despair means hopelessness.

#### **Question 2.**

“But I can get a hair-dye  
And set such colour there, Brown, or black, or carrot,  
That young men in despair  
May love me for myself alone  
And not my yellow hair.”

- (a) Who is the speaker of these lines?
- (b) Why does Anne say that she can change her hair colour?
- (c) Which word in the stanza means 'colour'?
- (d) What is the rhyming scheme adopted in this stanza?

**Answer:**

- (a) The speaker of these lines is Anne Gregory.
- (b) Anne says that she can change her hair colour to show that external beauty is not real and permanent.
- (c) The word is Dye.
- (d) The rhyming scheme adopted in this stanza is abcbdb.

### **Question 3.**

“I heard an old religious man But yesternight declare That he had found a text to prove That only God, my dear, Could love you for yourself alone And not your yellow hair.”

- (a) Who had found a 'text'?
- (b) What does the text prove?
- (c) What does 'yesternight' mean?
- (d) Find a word from the passage which is an antonym of 'conceal or hide'.

**Answer:**

- (a) An old religious man had found a text.
- (b) The text proves that only God is capable of looking beyond external beauty, into the soul of a person.
- (c) Yesternight means last night.
- (d) The antonym is 'declare'

## **Short Answer Type Questions**

### **Question 1.**

**Between whom does the conversation in the poem take place?**

**Answer:**

The poem is a conversation between a speaker, who could be the poet himself, or Anne's lover or friend and Anne Gregory herself. The other speaker believes that young men love Anne for her external beauty but Anne says that external beauty is not real and young men should love her for herself.

### **Question 2.**

What does the poet mean by, **“those great honey-coloured ramparts at your ear”**?

**Answer:**

Ramparts here refer to locks of Anne's beautiful yellow hair and external beauty that hides her soul and true nature and lets other people see only her outer self.

### **Question 3.**

**Why do young men love Anne for her hair and not for herself alone?**

**Answer:**

Anne Gregory is so beautiful that no man is capable of ignoring her external beauty and looking inside her real nature. Her attractive external\*features stop men from knowing the real person.

This is what that makes the speaker say that young men love Anne for her hair and not for herself alone.

**Question 4.**

**What are Anne's views on external beauty?**

**Answer:**

Anne does not believe in external beauty and wants to be loved for herself. She says that her beautiful hair that attract so many men can be changed and coloured differently. This shows that Anne thinks that external beauty is not important and is changeable.

**Question 5.**

**What has, According to the speaker an old religious man found?**

**Answer:**

The speaker says that an old religious man has found a text that proves that only God is capable of looking at a person's real self, beyond the external beauty.

**Question 6.**

**Why is only God capable of loving Anne for herself?**

**Answer:**

Only God is capable of loving Anne for only herself because humans do not have the power to look the beauty of soul. Only God is capable of not caring for the outer beauty, looking the beauty of one's soul.

**Long Answer (Value Based) Type Questions**

**Question 1.**

**The poet in the poem 'For Anne Gregory' conveys that we should give importance to the inner beauty and not the physical appearance. Elaborate with reference to the poem.**

**Answer:**

In the conversation that takes place between Anne Gregory and another speaker, the poet has tried to show that inner beauty is real beauty whereas physical appearance is changeable and hence, unimportant. The first speaker says to Anne that young men love her for her beautiful yellow hair and may never love her for what she really is. To this, Anne replies that her hair-colour can be changed into black, brown or carrot, meaning that external beauty is all superficial and men should not love her for that. Through Anne's reply, the poet has made clear his preference for internal beauty over physical appearance.

**Question 2.**

**How right or wrong is it to judge someone on the basis of his/her physical appearance?**

**Answer:**

Physical appearances never give the true account of a person as it can be changed with the help of clothing, make-up and other such things. Something which is not true and real should not be used to judge the person carrying it. A person must be judged on the basis of his behaviour that shows the true characteristics of his personality. This is explained by Anne in her reply to the first speaker that her beautiful hair-colour which attracts men is changeable, hence, men should not fall in love with her based on her-hair colour.

## **TEXTUAL QUESTION**

### **Question 1.**

**What does the young man mean by “great honey-coloured /Ramparts at your ear?” Why does he say that young men are “thrown into despair” by them?**

Answer:

The young man in the poem praises the great honey-colored hair of Anne. Anne’s hair has been called rampart, meaning a wall. It is called so because they act as a wall, as they prevent young men from looking beyond that yellow hair and into her soul. Her hair is so attractive that young men cannot look at anything else. Anne’s yellow hair is so pretty that young men hopelessly fall in love with her. She is so pretty that everyone wants her, which cannot happen; hence, they are thrown into despair.

### **Question 2.**

**What colour is the young woman’s hair? What does she say she can change it to? Why would she want to do so?**

Answer:

Anne’s hair is yellow, like the colour of honey. She says that she can change it to black, brown or carrot; she means that she can change it to any colour she wants. Anne says so to show that outer beauty is changeable and not permanent or real. She wants young men to look in her soul and love her for her inner beauty. In order to do so, she needs to show them the superficiality of her external beauty.

## **Poetic Devices in for Anne Gregory:**

### **Rhyme scheme:**

If we divide this poem of 18 lines into 3 units of 6 lines each, then each of these units will be found to follow the same simple rhyme scheme, that is, ABCBDB.

### **Apostrophe:**

This rhetorical device is used when a poet addresses his or her poem to an absent audience. In this poem, the poet follows the device of the apostrophe as he is addressing himself to Anne Gregory, but we the readers never see her at any point in the poem.

### **Metaphor:**

This rhetorical device is used when a covert comparison is made between two different things or ideas. In this poem, the poet uses the device of metaphor on the 4th line when he compares Anne Gregory’s hair with the ramparts of a castle. Like the ramparts, her hair also protects her face from being seen fully.

**Metonymy:**

This rhetorical device consists of the substitution of the name of an attribute or adjunct for that of the thing meant. In this poem, the poet uses the device of metonymy in the 9th line when he uses the word “carrot” to mean the color orange while making suggestions about what color she can dye her hair.

**Compound Words:**

Compound words are formed by adding two words into a single one when normally those words are not used together. In this poem, the poet uses the device of the compound word in the 14th line when he combines the words “yesterday” and “night” to create the word “yesternight”.

**Central Idea of for Anne Gregory:**

In this poem, the poet describes a conversation between himself and Lady Gregory’s granddaughter named Anne Gregory. He tells Anne that her yellow hair is beautiful and that all the young men who claim to be in love with her love her for that hair. In other words, all men love her for her outward appearance and not for her inner beauty. Anne then replies to the poet saying that she can easily dye her hair black or brown or orange, and then she would look ugly. If she looked ugly, then perhaps some man would look beyond her appearance and see her for who she really is on the inside. However, the poet quickly assures her that no such thing will happen. It is a universal truth that men always judge women on their physical appearance alone. Besides, even if Anne wants to look ugly, she cannot do so for she is a beautiful person on the inside.

**Themes of for Anne Gregory:****Conventional ideas of beauty:**

The idea of “beauty” is a cultural conception or one that has been created by human beings themselves. That is why this idea is very one-dimensional and unchanging. It is believed that women with lighter hair (and lighter skin, though that is not the issue here) are beautiful, whereas women with darker hair are ugly. This idea is so pervasive that everyone takes it for granted and believes in it blindly. Even Anne Gregory thinks the same way about beauty. She believes that if she dyes her hair black or brown or red, then she will look ugly, as opposed to her naturally blond and honey-colored tresses that make her look beautiful. However, the poet gives us an alternate idea of beauty, he tells Anne that since she is a beautiful person on the inside, she cannot look ugly even if she wants to. That is, beauty exists within us and not outside. However, we do not see Anne responding to the poet’s unconventional idea of beauty in this poem. Hence, we do not know if his idea has been accepted by her.

**Men judge only by outer appearance:**

Throughout the poem, the poet has made a critique of men. By repeatedly telling Anne that men love her only for her yellow hair, he has made it clear that men judge women only by their physical appearance. They never look beyond women’s appearance and try to get to know

women for their personality or their inner beauty. However, the poet believes that this is very wrong. He feels that men should get to know who women are on the inside, and appreciate them for the same. He knows who Anne really is, and that is why he can assert that she is a beautiful person on the inside. He only hopes that some other man of her own peer group will also appreciate the same qualities in Anne that he sees in her, but he also knows that this is unlikely to happen.

**Universal truth told by a wise man:**

The “old religious man” that the poet mentions in the last stanza are the embodiment of wise men. These are men who are very learned, and who know all there is to know about this world. The poet’s man is also very well read, and in fact, in one manuscript he has read that only God loves a woman for more than her physical appearance. Of course, the poet does not mean that such a manuscript exists literally. What he means is that it is a universal truth that no man can judge a woman by anything other than her looks. Moreover, it is only God who knows people for what they really are. God also knows that Anne is a beautiful person, and therefore, God loves her for her sweet and kind nature rather than her good looks.

**The Tone of for Anne Gregory:**

The tone of this poem is light and relaxed. It seems that the poet and Anne Gregory are in a relaxed mood, and are merely having a fun conversation. They may disagree on the issue at hand, but their conversation never turns into a heated argument. Instead, they each present their point of view in a humorous way. However, this tone does not match with the message that the poem is giving us. It is, in fact, making quite a feminist argument by saying that men only judge women in terms of their physical appearance. However, its tone is neither aggressive nor disheartened at such a thought.

**EXTRA SHORT ANSWER QUESTION**

**Question 1:** What was not liked by the young men?

**Answer:** The young men do not love the real person but love appearances. Everyone wants one should be loved for his actual personality and not by what he looks like. The young man does not like grey or yellow hair, and they do not care for inner beauty but love.

**Question 2:** The young woman’s hair is yellow coloured. She is ready to change her hair colour to another colour. Why would she want to do so?

**Answer:** The young woman is ready to do so because she wants someone to love her. Moreover, she wants that someone should love her for her inner beauty and not for the colour of her hair.

**Question 3:** What does the old religious man say?

**Answer:** The old religious man says that he has found a text which proves that only God could love us for ourselves alone and not for physical beauty. He is the one who truly loves us.

**Question 4:** What is the central idea of the poem, 'For Anne Gregory'?

**Answer:** The poem conveys the idea that physical beauty may be important for young men or human beings, but God does not love human beings for their physical beauty. In this poem, the poet gives an example of a lover who loves the yellow hair of a young lady but does not like her ramparts. The lady disapproves his love.

**Question 5:** To whom is the first stanza of the poem addressed? What does the speaker say to her?

**Answer:** The first stanza of the poem is addressed to a lady named Anne Gregory. She had a great influence on the poet. He had great respect for her. He tells her that although she is a noble lady, yet nobody would love her for herself alone.

**Question 6:** What makes a young man not to love the woman referred to in the first stanza?

**Answer:** The woman has beautiful yellow hair. But the outer part of her ears is not attractive. The poet says that men shall never love her only for herself.

**Question 7:** What does the woman say she can do to make herself more desirable to young men? What does this show?

**Answer:** The woman says that she would dye her hair brown, black or carrot colour. This shows that young men give more importance to physical appearance than inner beauty.

**Question 8:** What does the religious man tell the poet about God's love for man?

**Answer:** The religious man has told the poet that he has found a religious text. According to that, God loves a person, not for his or her physical qualities, but for their inner qualities.

### **EXTRA LONG ANSWER QUESTIONS.**

**Question 1:** The poet in the poem, 'For Anne Gregory' conveys that we should give importance to the inner beauty and not the physical appearance. Elaborate with reference to the poem.

**Answer:** In the conversation that takes place between Anne Gregory and another speaker, the poet has tried to show that inner beauty is real beauty, whereas physical appearance is changeable and hence, unimportant. The first speaker says to Anne that young men love her for



her beautiful yellow hair and may never love her for what she really is. To this, Anne replies that her hair-colour can be changed into black, brown or carrot, meaning that external beauty is all superficial and men should not love her for that. Through Anne's reply, the poet has made clear his preference for internal beauty over physical appearance.

**Question 2:** How right or wrong is it to judge someone on the basis of his/her physical appearance?

**Answer:** Physical appearances never give the true account of a person as it can be changed with the help of clothing, make-up and other such things. Something which is not true and real should not be used to judge the person carrying it. A person must be judged on the basis of his behaviour that shows the true characteristics of his personality. This is explained by Anne in her reply to the first speaker that her beautiful hair-colour which attracts men is changeable, hence, men should not fall in love with her based on her hair colour.

**Question 3:** Why do you think, the other speaker mentioned the old religious man and the text that proves that only God can love Anne for herself alone?

**Answer:** It is so because the speaker wanted to tell Anne that her desire that men should not see her outer beauty is not going to be fulfilled. The speaker tells Anne that only God can be so great as to avoid external beauty and look beyond it. Man, on the other hand, falls for all things that appear pretty from outside and never bothers about what lies inside.

**Read the following extracts carefully and answer the questions that follow:**

**Question 1:** "I heard an old religious man  
But yesternight declare  
That he had found a text to prove  
That only God, my dear,  
Could love you for yourself alone  
And not your yellow hair."

- What does the old man's text prove?
- What, according to the poet, is more essential in the eyes of God?
- What does 'I' refer to here?
- How is God's love different from the love of the young lovers?

**Answer:**

- That only God could love Anne for herself.
- God loves an individual for himself/herself alone.
- The Poet.

d. Young lovers love her hair that represents physical beauty whereas God loves an individual for being himself/herself.

**Question 2:** “Never shall a young man,  
Thrown into despair  
By those great honey-coloured  
Ramparts at your ear,”

- a. Name the poem and the poet.
- b. Who speaks these lines and to whom?
- c. What is her hair compared with?
- d. What is the honey-coloured rampart?

**Answer:**

- a. The poem is ‘For Anne Gregory’ and the poet is ‘W.B. Yeats’.
- b. A young man to Anne Gregory.
- c. Her hair is compared with honey.
- d. Anne’s yellow hair is the honey-coloured rampart.

**Question 3:** “But I can get a hair-dye  
And set such colour there,  
Brown, or black, or carrot,  
That young man in despair  
May love me for myself alone  
And not my yellow hair.”

- a. What different colours have been mentioned in the above lines?
- b. What does the speaker want?
- c. Who does ‘I’ stand for?
- d. Why does the speaker talk about changing the colour of hair?

**Answer:**

- a. Brown, black, carrot and yellow.
- b. The speaker wants that she should be loved for what she is and not for the colour of her hair.
- c. ‘I’ stands for Anne Gregory.
- d. The speaker wants to change the colour of hair so that she would be loved for what she is and not for the colour of her hair.