



INDIAN SCHOOL AL WADI AL KABIR

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH- (2025-26)

QUESTION BANK

SONG OF THE RAIN-By Kahlil Gibran

Class: IX

Subject: ENGLISH

Summary

This poem by Kahlil Gibran gives a beautiful picture of the rain. He tells us how it emerges from the sea and then showers on the fields. The rain quenches the thirst of the parched ground and brings life to it in the deserts. In the hills it revitalizes the greenery. The sound of thunder announces its arrival and a rainbow gives the sign of its departure. Rain comes down as showers of pleasure and joy for every living being. Rain is a wand of magic with a transforming touch. Rain, a messenger of mercy, connects the field with the clouds high in the sky. It fills in the void between the sky and the earth.

The poet, Kahlil Gibran composed this poem as a eulogy in praise of rain and its affection for earth. The poem is written in the first person, and the rain itself is the speaker.

Theme:

The theme of the poem is that when one takes on the task of serving humanity one must realize that such service involves tremendous self-sacrifice. The rains had to work selflessly to bring about solace on earth. It lessens the burden of the clouds, embrace the earth by falling on it and shed 'tears' of rain in order to green the hills. It is a lesson to humanity to work selflessly in the interest of the world as a whole in order to save the human race.

About the poet:

Kahlil Gibran was a Lebanese American poet and writer. His parents had come to America and settled there while he was a child. He began his writing career by writing in Arabic. Later he began writing in English. He is best known for his work 'the prophet' which has been translated into 40 languages and has never gone out of circulation. His poetry is written in a formal style.

A. Read the given extracts and answer the questions that follow:

1. *"The voice of thunder declares my arrival"*

(i) Has been visualised as:

(a) a response to the desperate call of a mate

- (b) an awakening, realising its need
- (c) its assurance to relieve it of worry
- (d) its annoyance at being disturbed

Ans. (a) a response to the desperate call of a mate

(ii) Rain comes to:

- (a) meet its want
- (b) fulfill its need to relieve it of barrenness
- (c) help in need
- (d) help it to survive

Ans. (c) help in need

(iii) The voice of thunder has created an image of:

- (a) Hero
- (b) King
- (c) Lord
- (d) Saviour

Ans: (d) Saviour

(iv) The extract contains:

- (a) simile
- (b) metaphor
- (c) personification
- (d) none of these

Ans: (c) personification

(v) The voice of thunder is:

- (a) bold
- (b) loud
- (c) scary
- (d) musical

Ans: (a) bold

2. *"The rainbow announces my departure
I am like earthy life which begins at
The feet of the mad elements and ends
Under the upraised wings of death."*

(i) What does the poet mean by 'mad elements'?

- (a) The poet might have meant the water and the vapour from which rain is born.
- (b) Rainbow and clouds.
- (c) Thunder and lightning.
- (d) All of the above

Ans.(a) The poet might have meant the water and the vapour from which rain is born.

(ii) What metaphorical meaning does the extract convey?

- (a) Birth and death cycle of rain
- (b) Cycle of life
- (c) Both (a) and (b)
- (d) None of the above

Ans. (b) Cycle of life

(iii) The rain compares itself to life as:

- (a) it begins its journey from the earth
- (b) it is born out of the earth

(c) it serves the earth & ends its life here

(d) All of the above

Ans.(b) it is born out of the earth

(iv) Name the figure of speech used in the extract.

(a) personification

(b) metaphor

(c) personal metaphor

(d) alliteration

Ans. (a) personification

(v) The rhyme scheme used is:

(a) abcdc

(b) ababc

(c) abcbc

(d) the poem does not have a rhyme scheme

Ans. (d) the poem does not have a rhyme scheme.

3. *"I am the sigh of the sea
The laughter of the field
The tears of heaven."*

(i) Rain has described itself as the "sigh of the sea" because:

(a) It is the accumulation of water vapour from the sea

(b) It travels upwards

(c) It is converted into rain drops

(d) It returns in the form of rivers

Ans. (d) It returns in the form of rivers

(ii) The word 'sigh' signifies:

- (a) a short breath
- (b) a deep breath
- (c) a sign of relief
- (d) a disgust

Ans. (b) a deep breath

(iii) Why does the sea sigh?

- (a) Because water evaporates and rises up leaving the sea
- (b) It suggests the mood of the sea
- (c) Both (a) and (b)
- (d) None of the above

Ans. (a) Because water evaporates and rises up leaving the sea

(iv) The expression "laughter of the field" is highly significant because:

- (a) With the arrival of rain, the field is filled with greenery.
- (b) New plants germinate.
- (c) The fresh growth of plants makes the fields proud with many new members.
- (d) The field is filled with happiness because rain helps in the growth of crops. 19V

Ans. (d) The field is filled with happiness because rain helps in the growth of crops.

(v) The rain brings in:

- (a) contentment
- (b) happiness
- (c) wealth
- (d) both (b) and (c)

Ans. (d) both (b) and (c)

4. *"The field and cloud are lovers*

And between them I am a messenger of mercy

I quench the thirst of one

I care the ailment of the other."

i) Why are cloud and field visualised as lovers?

Ans: The field and the cloud are referred to as lovers because of their longing for each other. Both are dependent on each other and both are interlinked. Rain acts as a connector or a messenger. The rain embraces the field to fulfill its longing by showering its cool touch.

ii) How does rain act as a "messenger of mercy"?

Ans: Rain acts as a messenger of mercy as it quenches the thirst of the fields by watering them. It fulfills its desire to replenish the soil with water for plants to thrive well and multiply and cure the ailment of the clouds by relieving them of the moisture.

iii) How are plants affected by the absence of rain?

Ans: Plants cannot survive in dry soil as the roots dry up, due to lack of water like any living being. Rain helps in curing the soil from dehydration.

(iv) How does it cure the ailment of the other?

Ans: Rain relieves the clouds by helping it to shed off the water vapour contained in it. The dark clouds now being lighter can beautify the blue sky.

5. *"I am dotted threads dropped from heaven
By the gods. Nature then takes me, to adorn
Her fields and valleys."*

(i) Why has rain been described as threads?

Ans. The rain has been described as dotted "silver threads dropped from heaven by the gods." The silvery raindrops appear like threads as it reaches the ground hanging like threads.

(ii) Why has the poet said "dropped from heaven"?

Ans: The raindrops fall from the sky above which is termed as heaven 'the abode' of the gods. It is thus believed that it is a blessing of the Almighty.

(iii) Why is rain considered a gift of God?

Ans. Rainfall takes place when nature completes the geographical phenomena. Consideration of water vapour and its contact with cool air causes rain which is impossible without supreme intervention.

(iv) How does rain adorn the fields and valleys?

Ans. Rain soothes the atmospheric heat and creates an ideal environment for the germination of plants. These fill the earth with greenery that creates a new look filled with freshness.

(v) "Nature then takes me to adorn
Her fields and valleys." Justify.

Ans. The arrival of rain gratifies Mother Nature. She engages herself to honour her guest. The drops of rain fill the air with moisture to decorate the earth with flora.

6. *When I cry the hills laugh;
When I humble myself, the flowers rejoice;
When I bow, all things are elated.*

(i) How does rain affect the earth?

Ans After the prolonged heat of summer, the fields become parched as the strong sun rays evaporate the moisture content in the soil. Rain now replenishes the soil bringing it to life.

(ii) How does rain bring fulfilment to the earth?

Ans. Rain brings in fulfilment to the earth by helping the soil to generate new life, old plants grow seeds which now bloom into plants to provide the wants of millions.

(iii) Why has the poet said rain is "dropped from heaven by the Gods"?

Ans. Rain showers on the earth from the sky above which is termed as "Heaven" the abode of God. So, it is believed unless God wills we cannot have rain.

(iv) Why is rain compared to the creator?

Ans. Rain is compared to God as it feels the need of living beings. It arrives after summer to cool the earth, quench its thirst, and provide greenery.

(v) "When I humble myself, the flowers rejoice." Explain.

Ans. Welly the lion earth all the living beings, especially, flowers rejoicing Its soft touch fills them with an immeasurable joy and contentment that surpasses all limits.

B. Answer the following questions:

1. How is the arrival and the departure of rain announced?

Ans. The thundering of the fully loaded clouds before the rain is the way the arrival of the rain is announced. The rainbow that appears when the rain stops is what tells of the rain's departure.

2. Why does the rain say that its announcement is a welcome song?

Ans. The fields that are parched and the people who are waiting for the rains to come welcome the sound of thunder. It is this sound which is the song of the rain that all welcome with happiness.

3. Where and how does the rain emerge?

Ans. The rain emerges from the sigh of the sea. The sigh is actually the process of evaporation of the surface water that forms the water vapour. These, in the form of clouds, travel with breeze to bring rain over parched fields.

4. What mythology does the poet Kahlil Gibran employ in his poem 'Song of the Rain'?

Ans. The poet says that raindrops are like pearls plucked from Ishtar's crown, who was a major goddess in Babylonian mythology.

5. What specific writing style is used by the poet for 'Song of the Rain' to make it seem more personal to the reader?

The rain is personified as a sentient being who narrates her story directly to the readers to glorify her significance.

6. How do you think the rain quenches the thirst of the fields and cures clouds ailment?

Ans: The rain gives the much-needed water to the fields for the crops to grow and this is how it quenches the thirst. The ailment of the clouds is that they get filled with water and becomes heavy. The falling of rain lightens the clouds and relieves them.

7. Think about million little ways in which the rain embraces the trees. Mention a few of them.

Ans. The rain embraces trees in many little ways. The rain washes off all the dust on the leaves. It provides water to its roots for further growth. It gives the trees the revitalization needed to flower and bear fruit.

8. "... All can hear, but only
The sensitive can understand'

What does the poet want to convey?

Ans. The poet says that though all the people on earth can hear the rain very few can understand the song behind it. Very few people think about the wonderful cycle of nature that goes in making the rain. Very few are sensitive enough to know that the nature is fragile.

9. Notice the imagery built around 'sigh of the sea', laughter of the field' and 'tears of heaven'. Explain 50 the three expressions in context of rain.

Ans. Sigh of the sea means the water of the sea escaping the surface in the form of evaporation and forming water vapour. The laughter of the field is the sound of the mud which receives water after being thirsty for some time. The tears of heaven are the symbol on of the actual droplets of rain falling from the sky.

10. How would you express rain as an agent of floods? a source of water for dams?

Ans. Floods are the destructive aspect and the water in dams is the creation aspect of water. The floods could be expressed as the fury of water and the dam as the filling of a pail for providing life.

11. "I am like earthly life ... "

Why does the poet call rain as earthly life?

Ans. The rain is compared to earthly life by the poet as it too has a life span. It is born, spreads happiness and then disappears. Rain too is born and it dies just like life on earth.

12. What does the rain say about those who can hear her arrival announcement?

Ans. The rain says that it announces her arrival with a welcome song that all can hear but only a few can understand. It says that only the sensitive ones can unfold the meaning behind the gentle breezes and thunder that precedes rainfall.

13. How does the rain sign out her narrative poem to her readers?

Ans. The poem ends with the rain signing with love, sighs from deep sea, laughter from the fields and tears from the endless heaven of memories. She sends all the love, and associated feelings to her readers to conclude her song.

14. The poet builds a refreshing rhythm delicate demeanour while narrating the poem 'Song of the Rain'. Give your analysis.

Ans. Kahlil Gibran describes the rain as if it were a divine goddess who is a boon for the earth. He uses the imagery of 'pearls' and 'dotted silver threads' for raindrops to invoke a pristine and precious essence. The rain touches almost everything it comes in contact with, be it living or non-living. It is the reason why flowers bloom and the hills become green again. Rain is called

'the tears of heaven' because they descend upon the land and make the fields fertile. The poem praises all the work rain does for everyone, even if they acknowledge its importance or not. Rain is divine because it rejoices everyone equally without any partiality.

15. With the harmful effects of Global Warming because of man playing God himself, how does the poem 'Song of the Rain' highlight the message of the beauty of nature?

Ans. Modern calamities have taught us to not play with nature and be grateful for all the things it does to sustain us. Rain is crucial for this world because all life relies on the food that grows in fields. The rain forms above the sea and is carried by wind over the fields that are parched. The rain quenches everyone's thirst and gives birth to new lush life. And it does this without asking for anything in return. The rain is also the source of all the beauty in this world. It showers on the flowers and hugs all the trees in a million ways. Man must realise the value of irreplaceable mother nature.

LONG ANSWER QUESTIONS:

1. Explain the ending of the song.

At the end of the poem, the rain says that it is the sigh of the deep sea, the laughter of the colourful fields and the tears of the sky. When the water from the surface of the sea evaporates it seems as though the sea is sighing. When the rain falls on the fields and quenches their thirst, the fields rejoice, become colourful and feel happy. When the cloud bursts, it becomes rain. The cloud dies and the drops of rain (tears of the heaven) fall on the earth.

2. What key message is the poet trying to give through his poem 'Song of the Rain'?

The poet conveys a key message through the poem 'song of the Rain'. It states that rainfall should not be taken as just a common- place phenomenon of nature. Its occurrence is a wonder of nature and a boon to the Earth and mankind. It deserves to be admired and appreciated as something divine. However, to sense its divinity one needs to have refined sensibilities. One should thus recognise its significance and understand how important it is for Earth. The poet through the poem also reveals how nature makes rain an instrument to enhance its beauty and to decorate it. The rain, in other words, rejuvenates Earth and fills joy in every being.

3. In 'Song of the Rain', the poet Kahlil Gibran celebrates rain as the life-giving force of the Earth. If you were the field that benefited from the rain, write a diary entry of your appreciation of the rain.

Wednesday, 10th July, 20XX, Wednesday

10:00 p.m.

Dear Diary,

What a blessing the rain was today! It fell softly at first, as if it was tickling me, nudging me to wake up from deep sleep. Soon, the intensity increased and brought freshness and energy in my soil. I have lost the parched look now and look green and fertile. It has been really a gift from

heaven! It beautifies everything that it falls on! It is a life-giving force which makes crops planted in me grow and the flowers bloom.

May the rain continue to spread happiness and cheerfulness!

NAME