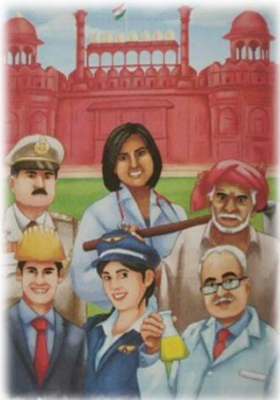




INDIAN SCHOOL AL WADI AL KABIR

Class: Grade 8	Department: ENGLISH	Date of submission: October 2022
QUESTION BANK No: 16	Topic: A Nation's Strength (Poem)	Note: English Notebook

A1. Unscramble these words using the clues (meanings) given and then write the words along with their meanings as part of your Word Bank:



yedf: Defy: to resist boldly

oef: Foe: enemy

nhtogr: Throng: to gather around in a crowd

tahsf: Shaft: the column of a building 's foundation

aecdy: Decay: to cause something to become gradually damaged, worse, or less

iperd: Pride: feeling of importance

ruestl: Lustre: shine

arde: Dare: to have the courage to do something difficult

lyf: Fly: to run away in fear

A2. Answer these questions:

1. What are the things that, according to the poet, do not make a nation strong?

Ans. According to the poet it isn't gold, nor the sword, nor pride make a nation strong.

2. Who are a nation's foes?

Ans. A nation's foes are the enemies of the nation and they surround it.

3. What can happen to a nation's pride?

Ans. A nation's pride can quickly lose its sheen if God so wills it. An act of nature can also destroy monuments, towns and places of natural beauty.

4. What are the qualities that make a nation strong?

Ans. The people who can stand by truth and honesty and who can suffer long for these great virtues can make their country great and strong. In other words, determined people with the right attitude make a nation strong.

5. State the rhyme scheme used in the poem.

Ans. The rhyme scheme used in the poem is *abab* where alternate lines rhyme.



A3. Think and answer:

1. Who are the real enemies of a nation? Do these enemies reside in a country or outside?

Ans1. The real enemies of a nation are people who run away from danger, don't defend the country or work hard. These real enemies reside within the country.

2. Why are wealth, pride and war not enough to make a country strong?

Ans2. Wealth, pride and war are not enough to make a country strong because it is people; determined people with the right attitude who make a country strong.

3. What is the poet's definition of bravery?

Ans3. The poet's definition of bravery is people who work while others sleep and who dare to do things that would have other people run away.

A4. Answer these questions with reference to the context:

1. Its shafts are laid on sinking sand,
Not on abiding rock.

a. What happens if a shaft is put on sand?

Ans a. A shaft put on sand will sink into the sand.

b. What is the result of a shaft being laid on rock?

Ans b. A shaft that is laid on rock is steady.

c. What is the shaft a symbol of in these lines?

Ans c. The shaft is a symbol of the foundation stones of the nation.

2. They build a nation's pillars deep
And lift them to the sky.

a. Who is 'they' in the above line?

Ans a. The 'they' in the line are the people of the nation.

b. How are the nation's pillars built deep?

Ans b. A nation's pillars are built deep by the people who work hard, suffer and who dare to do things that make others run away.

c. How are a nation's pillars lifted to the sky?

Ans c. A nation's pillars are lifted to the sky because they have deep foundations built on the solid ground of bravery and honor.

3. The blood has turned their stones to rust,
Their glory to decay.

a. Whose blood does the line refer to?

Ans a. The line refers to the blood of empires from ancient times.



b. What does the phrase ‘turned their stones to rust’ refer to?

Ans b. The phrase ‘turned their stones to rust’ refers to the reddish tinge of the stones where blood has been spilt.

c. Whose ‘glory’ has diminished?

Ans c. The empire’s glory has diminished.

A6. Use of Poetic Devices in the Poem:

1. **Imagery:** Imagery is usually employed to enhance the meaning of a text and have the purpose of embellishing it. In “A Nation’s Strength” by Ralph Waldo Emerson, other poetic devices and figures of speech are also employed such as:

- **Rhetorical question is** a question asked in order to create a dramatic effect or to make a point rather than to get an answer. E.g. what makes a nation’s pillars high and its foundations strong?
- **Metonymy:** Metonymy is a figure of speech in which one object or idea takes the place of another with which it has a close association. In fact, metonymy means “**change of name.**” As a literary device, it is a way of replacing an object or idea with something related to it instead of stating what is actually meant.

Examples:

It is not gold (The word ‘gold’ signifies the wealth and grandeur of a nation)

Is it the sword? (The word ‘sword’ refers to a nation’s military prowess)

- **Metaphors:** The first metaphor employed in the poem appears in the first stanza, particularly in the first line of the poem. The word “pillars” creates the metaphor of a building; the poet associates a nation with a building which needs to have a strong foundation in order not to collapse.
- **Symbols:** In the poem, several elements symbolize the decay of past nations. For instance, the “sword” symbolizes war and the thirst for blood. History has witnessed many nations that fought only for the sake of conquering others and destroying; eventually, those warrior nations have disappeared for good, turning “their glory to decay”.

Also find examples of Personification and Alliteration from the poem and discuss these with your teacher



...Betty Botter bought
some butter,
But, she said,
The butter's bitter;
If I put it in my
batter...

