



INDIAN SCHOOL AL WADI AL KABIR

Class: XII	Department: ENGLISH	2026 – 2027
Question Bank	Topic: A THING OF BEAUTY– JOHN KEATS	Note:

The Theme of the Poem

This excerpt features the celebrated poem "**A Thing of Beauty**" by the **British Romantic** writer **John Keats**. Originally part of his longer work "**Endymion**," the text explores how aesthetic splendor provides an enduring source of comfort and optimism amidst life's hardships. Keats catalogs various natural elements, such as the sun, moon, and flora, which act as a healing force for the human spirit

The poem delivers the concept that beauty can be discovered anywhere and at any time. The content of this poem is mostly concentrated on nature and the unexpected beauty that it brings. The topic of this poem is that beauty may be discovered anywhere and, when appreciated, can be used to lift one's spirits in times of adversity. Any beautiful object is always kept in our minds since it brings us permanent and everlasting happiness. The enjoyment that a beautiful object brings never fades away, but multiplies many times over anytime it returns to our mind.

Summary

A Thing of Beauty is by the famous poet John Keats. Furthermore, the poet says that a beautiful thing can give us extreme happiness and delight. Moreover, a beautiful thing is eternal that never declines or fades. Also, a beautiful thing resembles a shady shelter which gives us a comfortable sleep comprising of sweet dreams and relaxation. This will ultimately lead to good health. The sight of lovely and beautiful things will live on in our memories for the rest of our lives. Thinking about them makes our bodies and minds healthier, as the ideas give us serenity and mental calm.

The author says that individuals have an attachment to Earthly things. This attachment is such that it has the resemblance of a flowery wreath. Furthermore, there are traps that keep people connected to materialistic things. This connection with materialistic things distracts humans from eternal happiness. This is because the focus of such materialistic people will be on acquiring more and more resources rather than on attaining eternal happiness. The world has a lot of negativity, hatred, and greed. According to the poet, the cause of gloom and sadness is this negativity. Moreover, one can fade away these negative vibes away with the help of beautiful things that surround us. This is because these beautiful things bring nothing but positivity. Man and nature are strongly intertwined. The beauty of nature is what keeps us connected to this planet. Every morning, we select beautiful fresh flowers and make garlands. They lift our spirits and make us forget about our problems for a while.

RTC/ CBQ

Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

Therefore, on every morrow, are we wreathing
A flowery band to bind us to the earth,
Spite of despondence, of the inhuman dearth
Of noble natures, of the gloomy days,
Of all the unhealthy and o'er-darkened ways
Made for our searching:

1.
 - a. The poetic device employed in the first line is –
 - i. Alliteration
 - ii. Simile
 - iii. Inversion
 - iv. Transferred epithet
 - b. Assertion (A)-We suffer from lack of noble natures and disappointments.
Reason (R)-A thing of beauty has the power to remove this suffering.
 - a. A is correct but R is not the correct explanation
 - b. A is correct and R is the correct explanation
 - c. Both A and R are false
 - d. A is false but R is true
 - c. Why do we wreath a flowery band every day?
 - d. The poet highlights the power of
2. **According to the poet, what is the defining characteristic of a "thing of beauty" that distinguishes it from temporary pleasures?**
 - A) It provides a "cooling covert" for a short time.
 - B) Its loveliness increases and it never "passes into nothingness".
 - C) It is only found in "lovely tales we have heard or read".
 - D) It is a physical object that must be "wreathed" daily.
3. **What is the symbolic significance of "wreathing a flowery band to bind us to the earth"?**
 - A) It represents the human effort to stay connected to life despite suffering and "despondence".
 - B) It describes a literal ritual performed by shepherds on Mount Latmos.
 - C) It illustrates the "inhuman dearth of noble natures" in society.
 - D) It shows that humans are naturally obsessed with material decorations.

4. The poet mentions "gloomy days" and "unhealthy and o'er-darkened ways" to emphasize that:

- A) Nature is often dark and dangerous for "simple sheep".
- B) Human life is inherently free of "troubles and sufferings".
- C) Beauty is essential because it moves away the "pall" from our "dark spirits".
- D) The sun and moon are unable to shine during certain seasons.

SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS

(Q1.) List the things of beauty mentioned in the poem. (2 Marks)

(Ans) The things of beauty are the sun, the moon, old and new trees, daffodils, clear rills, musk roses that bloom among the thick forest ferns.

(Q2.) List the things that cause suffering and pain. (2 Marks)

(Ans) The things that cause suffering are dark phases of our life, adverse circumstances, gloomy days, death of noble people and bad health.

(Q3.) What does the line 'Therefore are we wreathing a flowery band to bind us to earth' suggest? (2 Marks)

(Ans) As a result of all the beautiful things around us, every morning we are weaving a flowery wreath to bind us to the beauties of the earth despite all the sadness.

(Q4.) What makes human beings love life in spite of all troubles? (2 Marks)

(Ans) In spite of all the sufferings, a beautiful thing helps us to remove the cover of gloom or darkness from our lives.

(Q5.) Why is grandeur associated with the 'mighty dead'? (2 Marks)

(Ans) Grandeur is associated with the 'mighty dead' because they will always be remembered for their noble and splendid deeds and creations. They have left behind a legacy for us to enjoy.

(Q6.) Do we experience things of beauty only for a short time? (2 Marks)

(Ans) No, these things of beauty have lasting impression on us. It never passes into nothingness.

(Q7.) What image does the poet use to describe the beautiful bounty of the earth? (2 Marks)

(Ans) The poet draws out the image of 'an endless fountain of immortal drink' that pours joy on us from the brink of heaven. These are the beautiful things in nature or man-made objects that he calls 'immortal drink'.

(Q8.) How does a thing of beauty provide us shelter and comfort? (2 Marks)

(Ans) John Keats is a great Romantic poet. He creates images that soothe our senses. Nature bestows us with things of rare beauty. It keeps the shade of trees ready for us to be

comfortable and peaceful in it. Beautiful things also provide peace and security so that we can enjoy sound sleep. We are able to enjoy sweet dreams, good health because of them.

(Q9.) What spreads the pall of despondence over our dark spirits? How is it removed? (2 Marks)

(Ans) Man makes his life miserable and full of suffering because of his own actions. The pall of despondence is the sadness that is a result of one's own actions. A thing of beauty works wonders for man and removes the cover of gloom from his dampened spirits.

(Q10.) What is the message of the poem 'A Thing of Beauty'? (2 Marks)

(Ans) Keats, an ardent lover of nature, in his poem refers to the powers of nature. He urges mankind to realise these powers and make his life enjoyable and worth living. He tells us how a thing of beauty provides perennial joy to us.

(Q11.) How do the 'daffodils' and 'clear rills' enrich our environment? (2 Marks)

(Ans) Daffodils are lovely white flowers that bloom in green surroundings. The 'clear rills' or clear streams of water create cooling comfort or passage for themselves as they pass through the thick bushes and ward away the heat of the sun.

(Q12.) What is the 'grandeur of the dooms' and 'endless fountain of immortal drink'? (2 Marks)

(Ans) The 'grandeur of the dooms' is a reference to our mighty and dead ancestors who have created beautiful objects for us. On the other hand, the 'endless fountain' is the everlasting joy provided to us by the bounties of nature in the form of nectar pouring on us from heaven.

(Q13.) What makes human beings love life in spite of all troubles and sufferings? (2 Marks)

(Ans) Human beings love life because nature is the best healer and brings beauty and joy to our life. The memory of beautiful experiences helps us to bear our sorrows. They have the power to lift the cloud of unhappiness from our damp spirits

(14) Rationalize why Keats uses the metaphor 'an endless fountain of immortal drink' in his poem, A Thing of Beauty. (CBSE Sample Paper 2021)

Ans. Keats employs a metaphor, an endless fountain of immortal drink because things of beauty are like the immortal drink of the gods, which never runs dry. Just as the endless fountain of God's love is an elixir of life, so are things of beauty. They constantly provide humans with everlasting joy, motivation and bliss.

Long Answer Questions (5 marks)

Q1. 'A Thing of beauty is a joy forever.' This is what John Keats says in the poem. Do you think in the present times of acute stress and violence, proximity to beautiful things can lead man to everlasting happiness? Discuss.

Answer: The message is that a thing of beauty is a joy forever. It exists outside of time. It will never be forgotten. Beauty has the ability to dispel darkness and negativity, and it can help us survive when there is a “lack of noble nature” or when we are surrounded by evil. It is beneficial to one’s health. It promotes restful sleep. Furthermore, it emphasizes the fact that beauty is not only physical but also spiritual, and it appears to flow down from heaven as an ‘immortal drink’ made for man.

In these times of extreme stress and violence, the objects of beauty take on even more significance. When our minds are anxious and troubled, the sight of beautiful things can provide us with temporary comfort and happiness. Appreciating beautiful things is synonymous with appreciating God.

The presence of beautiful things draws us closer to the creator, who possesses the ultimate power to provide us with relief from all anxieties and troubles. As a result, it is certain to bring everlasting happiness at all times.

Q2. Write in brief the central theme of the poem.

Answer: ‘A Thing of Beauty’ is a passage from John Keats’ poem ‘Endymion: A Poetic Romance,’ which is based on a Greek legend. In this poem, John Keats, a romantic poet, discusses love, beauty, and youth. The poem, in fact, reflects his attitude towards beauty. The poet believes that beauty is permanent and provides us with the same pleasure over and over. It brings us eternal happiness and never fades away. Beauty is very important in our lives because it helps us to stay happy and joyful in this sad, mundane world.

A thing of beauty is a constant source of joy. There is beauty everywhere. It has the potential to change people’s lives. It also emphasizes the therapeutic quality of beauty, i.e. its ability to remove negativity. It can be any object, nature, stories, or even our forefathers’ noble deeds.

Q3. ‘Beauty is best left undefined’. Support your position on this statement with your rationale, coupled with ideas in the poem. (CBSE QB, 2021)

Answer: The poem, ‘A Thing of Beauty,’ by John Keats, conveys the message that beauty is best left undefined, that beauty is everywhere, and that beauty is also found upon examination. The theme of this work is primarily concerned with nature. Keats describes the effects that beauty can have on a person. This beauty, according to Keats, never fades and its impact is felt long after it is gone. Keats emphasizes that beauty is “Made for our seeking,” implying that some people will find beauty in places where others will not.

I do believe that beauty should be best left undefined. Since, the definition and the form of beauty differs from person to person, i.e. It is subjective in nature, making standards or norms for beauty would tarnish its real value and thus, undermine its effects.

The theme of this poem is that beauty can be found anywhere and, when appreciated, can be used to lift one’s spirits during difficult times.

Q4. How do things of beauty enrich us? (Delhi 2015)

Answer. Our desire to live on this planet is greatly influenced by the presence of beautiful things that provide us with a constant source of joy. The earth is depressing and sad without beauty. There is cruelty, selfishness, and mean behavior everywhere, as well as a lack of good-natured people. This beauty, a creation of God, cleanses our minds and souls of sadness and darkness. We have a reason to live longer when we are wrapped up in the beautiful flowery band or this strong connection with nature. The sun, the moon, and old and young trees are all sources of joy for us. The trees sprout and spread their branches to provide shade for the sheep.

Daffodils bloom in the green environment in which they grow. The clear and small streams of water provide a cooling refuge from the hot season. With their lovely musk roses, the dense mass of ferns looks magnificent. All of these things enrich our lives to such an extent that we cannot live without them.

Q5. How does Keats' poem, A Thing of Beauty appeal richly to the senses, stimulating the reader's inner sight as well as the sense of touch and smell?(CBSE Sample Paper 2021)

Answer: In his poem 'A thing of Beauty,' John Keats has made extensive use of imagery to help the reader connect with the poem. His descriptions delight us by appealing to all of our senses.

The bower's cooling comfort, the beautiful daffodils dancing in the wind in its green surroundings, the refreshing stream that babbles as it falls, and the musk rose blooms among the mid forest brake all evoke our imagination, sense of hearing, touch, and smell.

The Sun, Moon, and both old and young trees provide a serene atmosphere. The endless fountain of immortal joy is described as beautiful.

All the above things in the poem appeal richly to the senses, stimulating the reader's inner sight as well as the sense of touch and smell, much to the want of Keats.

Q6. Artists, singers and musicians have a different perception of beauty as compared to people who are in other professions. Comment. (CBSE QB, 2021)

Answer: Beauty is perceived and responded to by artists, singers, and musicians. It could be awe and amazement, wonder and joy, or something else. It could be compared to a "peak experience" or an epiphany. It could happen while watching a sunset or admiring the view from a mountaintop—the list is endless. It is a type of experience, an aesthetic response to the representational qualities of the thing, whether manmade or natural. Artists, singers, and musicians value the core beauty because they understand the effort and time required to become one of these skilled performers.

Other professions, on the other hand, have a visual appeal for beauty; they value outward beauty.

Q7. Analyse the myth of Endymion in the context of the poem.

Answer: The poem is an excerpt from John Keats' first epic poem, 'Endymion,' which was published in 1818. The title of this poem is inspired by the first lines of Endymion. Endymion was a handsome young shepherd who lived on Mount Latmos in Asia Minor, according to Greek mythology. He had feelings for the moon goddess Selene, also known as Cynthia.

In his admiration, the enchanted shepherd resolved to seek her out. This poem echoes the shepherd's pleasure as he wanders through the forests, taking in the beautiful sights of nature. The poem expresses how beauty can instill joy in the soul that lasts forever.

Nature with its beauty, the sun, the moon and daffodils give life a new meaning and significance.

Q8. We have often heard the phrase: 'Beauty is skin deep'. In spite of that, we often see people idolizing actors and celebrities who are good looking and attractive. You have a conversation regarding this with your friend who believes that physical beauty defines a person. Write down that conversation. (CBSE QB, 2021)

Answer:

F 1: Some people find the phrases "beauty is only skin deep" and "beauty is in the eye of the beholder" to be highly divisive. Those quotes are all based on how others perceive them.

F 2: There are people who express themselves through darker clothing, and then there are those who always wear trendy and in-style clothing.

F 1: You have to like yourself first for anyone else to like you. Relating to 'Beauty is only skin deep' means that people only look at what's inside that counts.

F 2: People judge people. You look around and think by the clothes or hairstyle this girl wears that she can either not afford them or chooses to be that way. So you think she is poor. Doesn't she deserve your attention too? I think that beauty is overrated.

F 1: People need to look at your mind, your intelligence. Being pretty is not all it's cracked up to be. Since being pretty has got me a lot of compliments, it also brings in the bad sides of beauty.

F 2: Beauty is all about what is on the inside of a person. Inside beauty consists of a person's love for themselves, love for others, and personality. These characteristics contribute to the development of a beautiful person. Being beautiful entails being aware of your own beauty.

F 1: Another way to show beauty is to be able to love others. Giving to others, even those who mistreat you, is a beautiful thing. It takes courage and sometimes strength to show love to others when the person is not treating you as you should be treated.

Q9. Analyse the poetic devices used in the poem.

Answer: The poem is full of images and employs a variety of poetic devices. There is alliteration in the phrase "simple sheep," which refers to humanity. Metaphor has been used. In 'Moves the pall,' our souls steeped in sadness and hopelessness are compared to dead bodies wrapped in a shroud.

In the metaphor of the ‘immortal drink,’ a feeling of immense joy is compared to a drink that flows down from heaven’s rim like an endless fountain. The words ‘noble natures,’ ‘simple sheep,’ and ‘cooling convert’ all contain alliteration. The poem is filled with imagery, such as ‘flowery bands,’ ‘daffodils with the green world they live in,’ ‘clear rills,’ and ‘endless fountain.’

Q10. You are a blogger who loves to record travel stories. You recently visited a picturesque location and you were enamored by its beauty. Pen down the post for your blog giving vivid descriptions of the natural beauty of this place. Supplement your writing with Keats’ ideas about beauty. (CBSE QB, 2021)

Answer: Every location has its own distinct characteristics. Some places are known for their scenic beauty, while others are known for their architectural marvels.

I’ve been to a lot of historical and tourist attractions. It is said to be the closest thing to heaven on Earth. It has the accolade of being “The Switzerland of India”. Kashmir is one of the most beautiful places on the planet, with snow-capped mountains and lush green plains and valleys. It has been a popular tourist destination both within the country and abroad.

Kashmir is well-known for its diverse flora and fauna. The location is very important for tourists who want to visit religious sites. It is the home of the gods and goddesses. Its serpentine rivers, huge calm lakes, mighty waterfalls, and long lines of cypress trees are among the delightful tourist attractions.

The scene of Dal Lake with houseboats and their reflections in the still waters of the lake is breathtaking. The cave of Amarnath, where Lord Shiva’s temple is located, is a wonderful place for religious tourists. It is crowded during the months of September and October because it is located at a height of 15,000 feet.

Kashmir is abundantly endowed with some of India’s best hill stations.

The emotion still lingers on me as if it were yesterday. Perhaps John Keats was correct when he said, “A thing of beauty is a joy for all time.”

***** HAPPY LEARNING *****