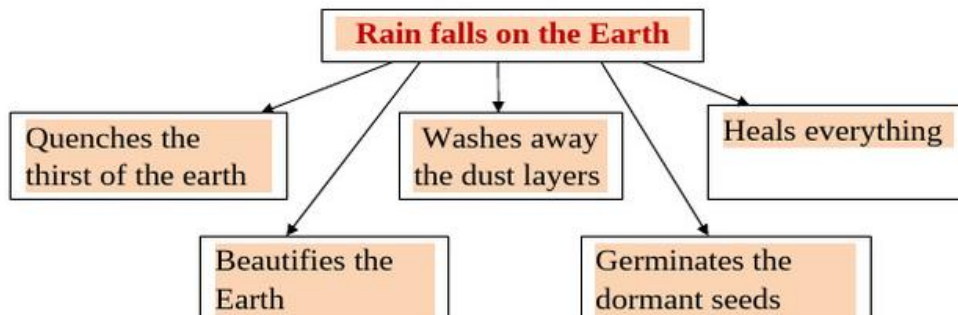
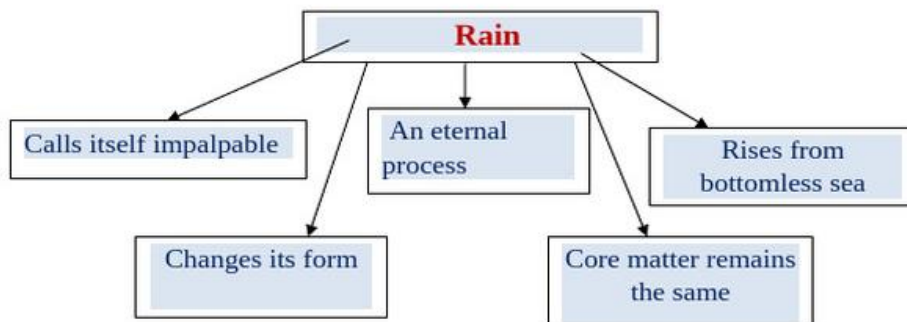
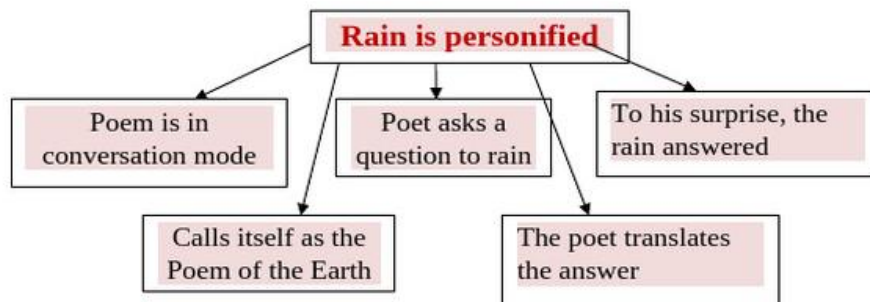




MIND MAP



SUMMARY

Walt Whitman's "The Voice of the Rain" is a dialogue between the poet and the falling rain. The rain explains its eternal cycle: rising as invisible vapor from the earth and sea to form clouds, then returning to quench the drought, wash the dust, and give life to unborn seeds.

The Journey of the Rain

The poem begins with the poet curiously asking the soft-falling rain, "Who are you?". Surprisingly, the rain answers, referring to itself as the "Poem of Earth". It explains its perpetual journey of rising invisibly from the land and the bottomless ocean to heaven (the

sky). In the sky, its form changes, yet fundamentally, it remains the same. It then descends to wash away droughts, dust, and microscopic particles from the globe.

Nourishment and the Cycle of Life

Upon falling back to Earth, the rain breathes life into the dormant and unborn seeds buried beneath the soil. It fulfills its duties day and night, providing care and nourishment, and continuously returns to beautify and purify its place of origin.

Parallel to Music

In the last two lines, the poet draws a striking parallel between the rain and a song. Just like a song originates from the heart of the poet, travels to touch human souls, and eventually returns to its source with love, the rain takes birth from the Earth, completes its journey, and returns to its origin. Both are eternal forces of nature that flow continuously, fulfilling their purpose and bringing joy to the world.

LINE BY LINE EXPLANATION

*And who art thou? said I to the soft-falling shower,
Which, strange to tell, gave me an answer, as here translated:
I am the Poem of Earth, said the voice of the rain,
Eternal I rise impalpable out of the land and the bottomless sea,*

The poet asks the rain drizzling softly who it is? He says that it is unusual for the rain to answer and then translates its response for his readers. The voice of the rain tells him that it is the poem of the Earth. It rises ceaselessly from the land and the deep, deep sea.

*Upward to heaven, whence, vaguely form'd, altogether changed, and yet the same,
I descend to lave the droughts, atomies, dust-layers of the globe,
And all that in them without me were seeds only, latent, unborn;
And forever, by day and night, I give back life to my own origin,
And make pure and beautify it;*

The rain says that it changes its form and turns into vapour while retaining its content. It then rises as vapour to the heavenly sky; whereafter, it falls as rain to wash the parched land of drought. The poet describes the formation of clouds and the subsequent precipitation. It washes the fine dirt and dust across the globe. As it rains day and night, the seeds which had been henceforth lying dormant, waiting for the rain, bloom into plants replenishing the dry earth. The rain gives back life to the soil from where it rose. It cleans the polluting dust, and helps it become clean and green again. Thus, it makes the earth pure and beautiful.

*(For song, issuing from its birth-place, after fulfilment, wandering
Reck'd or unreck'd, duly with love returns.)*

In the last two lines (these lines are the poet's own observations, so they are put inside brackets), the poet compares a song with the rain. He says just like the rain rises from the land and sea and comes back to it in order to rejuvenate it, similarly a song, poem or music, also leaves the human heart and goes to the audience. After it fulfils its purpose of satisfying the hearts of the listener, heeded or unheeded, it returns to the composer with all the love and appreciation that it received and rejuvenates the creator.

CORE THEMES

- **The Eternal Cycle of Nature:** The poem details the water cycle—rising invisibly from the land and sea, forming clouds, and descending to nourish the earth. This cyclical movement represents the endless regeneration of life and the interconnectedness of the environment.
- **Rain as a Life-Giving Force:** Personified as a living voice, the rain calls itself the "Poem of Earth". It descends to wash away droughts, dust, and nurture latent, unborn seeds, ensuring continuous growth and rejuvenation.
- **The Parallel Between Rain and Song:** Whitman draws a beautiful analogy between rain and poetry. Just as rain rises from the earth, sustains life, and returns to its origin, a song originates from the poet's heart, fulfills its purpose in the world, and ultimately returns to the singer in the form of appreciation.

KEY MESSAGES:

- **Interconnectedness:** The rain draws a parallel between nature and humanity, suggesting that everything in the universe is connected to its origin and has a designated purpose.
- **Life and Renewal:** The rain acts as a life-giving force, quenching the Earth's thirst, cleansing it of dust, and bringing dormant seeds to life.
- **The Cycle of Art:** Whitman compares the journey of the rain to the creation of a song or poem. Just as rain rises from the Earth, changes form, and falls back to nourish it, poetry originates from the human soul, wanders through the world, and eventually returns enriched with love.
- **Giving Back:** The primary moral of the poem is the importance of giving back to one's source. The rain receives life from the Earth and sea, rises to the sky, and selflessly returns to support, purify, and beautify its birthplace.

ASSERTION AND REASONING BASED QUESTION ANSWER

Question 1

Assertion (A): The rain describes itself as the "Poem of Earth."

Reason (R): The rain originates from the earth and sea, rises to the sky, and returns to bring joy and rhythm to the world.

- (a) Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.
b. A is true, but R is false.
c. Both A and R are true and R is not the correct explanation of A
d. A is false and R is true

Answer: (a) Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.

Question 2

Assertion (A): The poet finds it "strange to tell" that the rain gives him an answer.

Reason (R): Rain is a natural, inanimate phenomenon and does not possess the literal ability to speak to human beings.

- (a) Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.
- b. A is true, but R is false.
- c. Both A and R are true and R is not the correct explanation of A
- d. A is false and R is true

Answer: (a) Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.

Question 3

Assertion (A): The rain rises "impalpable" out of the land and bottomless sea.

Reason (R): The rain descends as a tangible shower but returns to the atmosphere in a physical state that can be clearly touched.

- (a) Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.
- b. Both A and R are true and R is not the correct explanation of A
- c. A is true, but R is false.
- d. A is false and R is true

Answer: (c) A is true, but R is false.

(Explanation: The rain is "impalpable" when it rises as unseen vapor, not when it falls).

Question 4

Assertion (A): The rain claims to descend to lave the droughts, atomies, and dust-layers of the globe.

Reason (R): The objective of nature is to bring destruction to human habitations and purify the environment.

- (a) Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.
- b. Both A and R are true and R is not the correct explanation of A
- c. A is true, but R is false.
- d. A is false and R is true

Answer: (c) A is true, but R is false.

(Explanation: The rain laves/cleanses the earth to provide life, nourishment, and purity—not destruction).

Question 5

Assertion (A): Rain and music are compared based on their eternal nature.

Reason (R): Both emerge from their birthplaces, complete their purposes, and eventually return to their origins with love.

- (a) Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.
- b. A is true, but R is false.
- c. Both A and R are true and R is not the correct explanation of A
- d. A is false and R is true

Answer: (a) Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.

Question 6

Assertion (A): The latent and unborn seeds are impacted negatively by the rain.

Reason (R): The rain washes away latent seeds and leaves the earth barren.

- (a) Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.
- b. A is true, but R is false.

- c. Both A and R are true and R is not the correct explanation of A
- d. Both A and R are false.

Answer: (d) Both A and R are false.

(Explanation: The rain provides life to latent/unborn seeds, causing them to sprout and bloom).

Question 7

Assertion (A): The poem is a conversation between two voices.

Reason (R): The poet asks a question to the falling rain, and the rain responds by narrating its life story.

- (a) Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.
- b. A is true, but R is false.
- c. Both A and R are true and R is not the correct explanation of A
- d. A is false and R is true

Answer: (a) Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.

Question 8

Assertion (A): The poet translates the voice of the rain for the readers.

Reason (R): The voice of the rain speaks in a supernatural, divine language that requires human interpretation.

- (a) Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.
- b. A is true, but R is false.
- c. Both A and R are true and R is not the correct explanation of A
- d. A is false and R is true

Answer: (a) Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.

EXTRACT BASED QUESTIONS

Extract 1

*And who art thou? said I to the soft-falling shower,
Which, strange to tell, gave me an answer, as here translated:
I am the Poem of Earth, said the voice of the rain, [1, 2, 3]*

Questions & Answers:

1. **Who does 'I' refer to in the first and third lines of the extract?**

Answer: In the first line, 'I' refers to the poet. In the third line, it refers to the falling raindrops.

2. **What does the phrase "strange to tell" signify in the context of the poem?**

Answer: It signifies the poet's surprise and awe. An inanimate object like the soft-falling rain speaking back to a human is highly unusual and mystical.

3. **Why does the rain call itself the "Poem of Earth"?**

Answer: Just as a poem provides joy, rhythm, and a soothing melody to the reader's heart, the rain provides similar joy and rhythm to the Earth by bringing it to life.

4. **Identify and explain the poetic device used in the third line.**

Answer: The poetic device used is **Metaphor**. Rain is directly compared to a poem without using 'like' or 'as'.

Extract 2

*Eternal I rise impalpable out of the land and the bottomless sea,
Upward to heaven, whence, vaguely form'd, altogether changed, and yet the same,*

Questions & Answers:

1. **What does the word "impalpable" mean, and what does it indicate about the rain?**

Answer: "Impalpable" means something that cannot be touched. It indicates that in its initial stage (as water vapor rising), the rain is invisible to the naked eye.

2. **Explain the phrase: "altogether changed, and yet the same."**

Answer: Although the water fundamentally transforms its shape and form as it rises to form clouds and descends as rain, its core essence remains the same—it is still water.

3. **Trace the journey of the rain as described in these lines.**

Answer: The rain originates from the land and the "bottomless sea" in the form of vapor. It rises upward toward the sky, condenses to form clouds of vague shapes, and then descends to Earth.

4. **How do these lines reflect the poet's scientific awareness?**

Answer: The lines reflect a clear understanding of the scientific **water cycle** (evaporation from land and sea, rising up, and condensation into clouds).

Extract 3

*I descend to lave the droughts, atomies, dust-layers of the globe,
And all that in them without me were seeds only, latent, unborn;*

1. **What is the primary function of the rain when it descends?**

Answer: When the rain descends, it washes, bathes, and purifies the Earth's dry landscapes, tiny dust particles, and dust layers.

2. **How does the rain affect the seeds buried beneath the Earth?**

Answer: The rain awakens the seeds that were lying dormant, dry, and hidden. It provides them with the essential moisture required to germinate and be born as plants.

3. **What does the word "latent" signify in this context?**

Answer: "Latent" refers to something that is present but hidden or undeveloped. It signifies the dormant state of seeds waiting for water to sprout.

4. **What is the underlying theme presented in this extract?**

Answer: The underlying theme highlights the life-giving, cleansing, and nurturing qualities of rain, emphasizing its role in sustaining life on Earth.

Extract 4

*And forever, by day and night, I give back life to my own origin,
And make pure and beautify it;*

1. What does the phrase "my own origin" refer to?

Answer: "My own origin" refers to the Earth and the sea, which are the sources from which water evaporates.

2. How does the rain "give back life" to its origin?

Answer: The rain replenishes the Earth's water bodies, revives vegetation, and nourishes the soil, ensuring that the planet continually thrives and brings forth new life.

3. In what two ways does the rain impact the globe?

Answer: First, it purifies the Earth by clearing the air of dust and droughts. Second, it beautifies the Earth by making it green and allowing flowers and plants to bloom.

4. What does the continuity of this process suggest about nature?

Answer: The fact that it happens "forever, by day and night" suggests that nature's cycles are eternal, self-sustaining, and perpetual.

Extract 5

*(For song, issuing from its birth-place, after fulfilment, wandering,
Reck'd or unreck'd, duly with love returns.)*

1. Where do these two lines diverge from the rest of the poem?

Answer: These two lines are placed within brackets, indicating that they represent the poet's personal observation or philosophical reflection, rather than the voice of the rain.

2. How is a "song" compared to "rain"?

Answer: Both have a cyclical journey. A song originates from the heart of the singer, wanders through the world fulfilling its purpose of spreading joy, and eventually returns to its source (the singer's heart) with love and appreciation.

3. What does "reck'd or unreck'd" mean?

Answer: It means 'whether cared for or ignored'. It suggests that the rain and the song perform their duty without seeking appreciation or worrying about being noticed.

4. What lesson does the poet convey through this comparison?

Answer: The poet conveys that true art (like a song) and natural processes (like rain) are eternal. They fulfill their purpose of bringing joy and life to the world without expecting anything in return.

SHORT ANSWERS

Q1. Why does the rain call itself the "Poem of Earth"?

Answer: The rain calls itself the "Poem of Earth" because, just as poetry brings joy and rhythm to the human heart, the rain brings life, melody, and rejuvenation to the Earth. It sustains nature and brings peace to the planet.

Q2. What does the phrase "strange to tell" imply?

Answer: The phrase "strange to tell" implies the poet's sheer surprise and awe. It was highly unusual for the rain—a non-living, natural phenomenon—to actually speak and answer the poet's question about its identity.

Q3. Why is the rain's upward movement described as "eternal"?

Answer: The rain's upward movement is eternal because it is part of an endless natural cycle (the water cycle). It constantly rises from the land and bottomless sea as vapor, invisible and untouchable, never truly ceasing.

Q4. How does the rain act as a healer and giver of life to the Earth?

Answer: It descends to wash away droughts, dust layers, and tiny particles covering the globe. More importantly, it nourishes and gives life to latent and unborn seeds, enabling them to sprout and grow.

Q5. What parallel does the poet draw between rain and music/song?

Answer: The poet creates a parallel by stating that both rain and music originate from a source, wander (ascend or spread), undergo transformations, and ultimately return to their origin with love and fulfillment.

Q6. What is the symbolic meaning behind "duly with love returns"?

Answer: This signifies that the rain completes its natural cycle by returning to its birthplace (the Earth) to nourish it. It highlights nature's selfless love, continually giving back life to the origin from which it first took form

LONG ANSWER

Q1: How does the rain justify its claim, "I am the Poem of Earth"? Explain the underlying theme.

Answer: The rain calls itself the "Poem of Earth" because, much like a poem brings joy, rhythm, and beauty to the human soul, the rain brings life, nourishment, and rejuvenation to nature. It originates from the depths of the earth and the fathomless sea, ascends to the heavens as vapor, and then returns to wash and refresh its birthplace. The theme highlights the eternal cycle of nature: the rain sustains life, beautifies the planet, and carries out its duty selflessly, much like a beautiful piece of art that continuously inspires the world.

Q2: How does the poet establish a parallel between rain and a song?

Answer: Walt Whitman draws a beautiful parallel between rain and a song (music) based on their origins and journeys. A song originates from the heart of the poet, wanders out into the world to touch lives, and eventually returns to its source (the singer) with love, regardless of whether it is appreciated or not. Similarly, the rain rises eternally from the earth and the ocean, wanders the sky in the form of clouds, fulfills its duty of nourishing the earth, and ultimately returns to its birthplace. Both rain and music are eternal, bringing joy and returning to their origin after completing their purpose.

Q3: Why did the poet call the rain's response "strange to tell"? How does the conversation develop in the poem?

Answer: The poet found it "strange to tell" because it is highly unusual for a natural, inanimate phenomenon like rain to actually "speak" and answer a human's question. The

conversation begins when the poet asks the soft-falling shower about its identity ("And who art thou?"). Surprisingly, the rain replies, identifying itself as the eternal poem of the Earth. The poet acts as a translator, conveying this divine, cosmic voice to the readers so that they can understand nature's selfless purpose.

Q4: Describe the cyclic movement of rain as explained in the poem. How does it compare with the scientific concept of the water cycle?

Answer: In the poem, the rain describes its eternal journey: it rises from the land and the deep sea as impalpable vapor, ascends to heaven (the sky), changes its form to become floating clouds, and then falls back to earth to wash droughts, dust, and latent seeds. This poetic description aligns perfectly with the scientific water cycle, which involves evaporation (water rising), condensation (cloud formation), and precipitation (rain falling), proving that the life-giving essence of nature remains constant and eternal.

LITERARY DEVICES

- ☐ Personification: The rain is given a human voice and speaks back to the poet.
 - Example: *"I am the Poem of Earth, said the voice of the rain"*
- ☐ Metaphor: The rain is directly compared to a song/poem without using the words "like" or "as".
 - Example: *"I am the Poem of Earth"* (comparing the continuous, life-giving cycle of rain to the birth and return of music/art).
- ☐ Imagery: Words that create clear mental pictures of sight and touch regarding the water cycle.
 - Example: *"soft-falling shower", "rise impalpable out of the land and the bottomless sea", and "lave the droughts, atomies, dust-layers"*.
- ☐ Hyperbole: A bold exaggeration used to describe deep or endless natural elements.
 - Example: *"bottomless sea"*.
- ☐ Paradox: A statement that seems opposite or impossible yet reveals a deeper truth.
 - Example: *"And all that without them were seeds only, latent, unborn"* — giving life back to the very hidden place/origin it came from.
- ☐ Enjambment: When a sentence continues to the next line without a punctuation mark.
 - Example: *"And forever, by day and night, I give back life to my own origin..."*

The poem "The Voice of the Rain" by Walt Whitman does not have a rhyme scheme. It is written in free verse, meaning it lacks a regular pattern, fixed meter, or end rhymes.