

POEM _Rain on the roof

Central Idea

It is a poem that tells us about the poet's sweet memories of his childhood. At night, when dark clouds cover the sky and it rains gently, then the poet lies on his cosy bed listening to the sound of the gentle rain droplets on the rooftop of his house. He remembers that his mother used to tell him stories; which gave him immense solace and pleasure.

(A) 1. What do the following phrases mean to you? Discuss in class.

(i) humid shadows.

(ii) starry spheres.

(iii) what a bliss.

(iv) a thousand dreamy fancies into busy being start.

(V) a thousand recollections weave their air-threads into woof.

ANS. (i) "Humid shadows" refer to the dark clouds that bring rain.

(ii) "Starry spheres" refer to the sky at night time, which is full of stars.

(iii) "What a bliss" refers to the happiness of the poet, when he listens to the raindrops falling on the roof.

(iv) "a thousand dreamy fancies into busy being start" refers to the various imaginary thoughts and fantasies that are aroused in the poet's mind.) sowan 102

(v) "a thousand recollections weave their air-threads into woof" means that the poet recollects numerous memories in the rainy season that join together to form a beautiful picture; just like the in weaving, threads mesh together to

2.form a pattern.

2. What does the poet like to do when it rains?

ANS. When it rains, the poet likes to lie with his head pressed against the pillow of his cottage chamber bed and listen to the sound of the soft rain.

3. What is the single major memory that comes to the poet? Who are the "darling dreamers" he refers to? ANS. The poet's most vivid memory is of his mother. The "darling dreamers" refer to children like him who fondly remember their mothers.

4. Is the poet now a child? Is his mother still alive?

ANS. No, the poet is not a child now. He is a grown up man. His mother is no more. He remembers her, when he is inside his cosy cottage and enjoys the patter of rain on the roof.
Long question

1. Dreams hold importance in the poet's life. Is it true?.

ANS. This poem is depicting the overall mood on a rainy night. During night, the humid cloud, full of water, creates dark shadows over the star-studded sky. The poet dreams about his mother and the way; she used to tuck him in bed. The poet's dream of his mother, reminds him of his childhood days. His mother used to tell stories to lull him into sleep full of dreams. The music being played on the rooftop is like the affectionate look, with which his mother used to see him, when he was a kid. So, dreams make him realise the importance of the past and the things that he now misses.

Extract-Based Questions

"When the humid shadows hover Over all the starry spheres, And the melancholy darkness Gently weeps in rainy tears, What a bliss to press the pillow Of a cottage-chamber bed, And lie listening to the patter Of the soft rain overhead!"

(i) What emotion does the phrase "melancholy darkness" evoke in the poem?

(A) Joy. (B) Sadness. (C) Anger. (D) Excitement.

(ii) Why does the poet describe the rain's sound as a "bliss"?

ANS. It brings comfort and evokes nostalgic memories.

(iii) Fill in the blank with ONE WORD:

The poet lies listening to the rain on the roof. of the soft

ANS. patter

iv. What does "the cottage chamber bed" symbolise in the poem ?

A. Wealth B. Simplicity and peace C. Loneliness D. Adventure