

1. EXPLANATION: (DUST OF SNOW)

The poem “Dust of Snow” by Robert Frost is a simple and short poem, yet with a deeper and larger meaning. The poet explains how an act as petty as experiencing snow on one’s body can brighten one’s day up. The message of the poem is put into words by Robert Frost:

*“Always, always a larger significance...
A little thing touches a larger thing.”*

The poem is set in a scene where the poet is in a bad mood and is walking by a tree, a hemlock tree. Hemlock tree is a poisonous tree. As he passes by, a crow happens to throw some snow dust on him. Whether it falls on his head or shoulders is unknown as there is no specific mention in the poem. Also, the readers are left in doubt about the bird’s specific action. Whether the crow was landing, shivering with cold, re adjusting itself on the branch or taking off, it happened to send some particles of snow upon the author. Here, the two agents of nature, the hemlock tree and the crow are signifiers of sadness and gloom just like the poet’s mood was in the opening scene.

For reasons unknown, the author was having a terrible day. But the falling of the snow on his head lifted his mood instantly. He had already spent his day in a bad mood but the rest of it was saved by the crow and the hemlock tree. Generally, hemlock tree and crow are used for negative references but the poet used them beautifully to portray that inauspicious things can bring joy and happiness too. One must not take things for granted and should be open and accept whichever way the nature chooses to bless us.

The short poem by Robert Frost throws light upon the unimaginable healing power of nature and tiny things. From a bad mood to ill-health, there is nothing that can’t be cured by nature. The author was experiencing one such bad day when a crow’s movement near a hemlock tree dusted snow upon him. The snow instantly makes him happier. His day gets a lot better. Thus, the supremacy of nature as a whole made him realise how petty his problem was. The fact that hemlock tree is poisonous combined with crow being the indicator of doom and fear are used in the poem as the carriers of happiness in the life of narrator is ironical. The poet, through these objects has tried to highlight that sometimes creatures linked with negative aspects of life can be the bringer of change and happiness. Being outdoors in nature, with all its unpredictability can benefit anyone, anywhere at any time.

Answer the following questions:

- 1.) What is a “dust of snow”? What does the poet say has changed his mood? How has the poet’s mood changed?
- 2.) How does Frost present nature in this poem? The following questions may help you to think of an answer.
 - (i) What are the birds that are usually named in poems? Do you think a crow is often mentioned in poems? What images come to your mind when you think of a crow?
 - (ii) Again, what is “a hemlock tree”? Why doesn’t the poet write about a more ‘beautiful’ tree such as a maple, or an oak, or a pine?
 - (iii) What do the ‘crow’ and ‘hemlock’ represent — joy or sorrow? What does the dust of snow that the crow shakes off a hemlock tree stand for?
- 3) What does the poet want to convey through this poem, Dust Of Snow?
- 4) Small things in the life make significant changes in the life. Elaborate with the reference to the poem, ‘Dust Of Snow’.

READING

1. Read the following passage carefully :

(8)

The lifeline of India

For millions of people in India, River Ganga is the most sacred river. It is considered as mother and goddess. It is also a lifeline to millions of Indians who live along its course and depend on it for their daily needs. River Ganga is the third largest river in the world by the amount of water that flows through it. It is the longest river in India. The river water of Ganga is used for irrigation, transportation and fishing. The Gangetic plain formed by River Ganga is

one of the most fertile lands on Earth. This is why almost 10% of the world population lives here and earns its livelihood.

The Ganga, in India is the most worshipped body of water. The irony here is that inspite of being the most worshipped river, it is also the dirtiest one. It carries some metals thrown out by tanneries waste produced by industries and urban waste from different cities. All this has made river Ganga the fifth most polluted river in the world. Another major reason that adds to the Ganga river pollution is the coal based power plants on its banks which burn tons of coal every year and produce tons of fly ash. This ash mixed with domestic waste water is released in the river. This bad situation calls for an urgent need to make efforts to reduce pollution and revive river Ganga. To achieve these objectives Government of India has started a programe named 'Namami Gange programme programme.' The main pillars of this program are sewage treatment, river surface cleaning afforestation, river front development and public awareness. The importance of the success of 'Namami Ganga program' can be seen through the following lines:

"If Ganga dies, India dies, If Ganga thrives India thrives, No Ganga No India"

1.1 On the basis of your understanding the above passage, answer the following questions.

(a) For whom is river Ganga, a lifeline?

- (i) who live along its course
- (ii) depend for daily needs
- (iii) both (i) and (ii)
- (iv) none of the above

(b) For what purposes is the Ganga river water used?

- (i) Irrigation
- (ii) transportation
- (iii) fishing
- (iv) all of the above

(C) why does almost 10% of the world population live in the Gangetic Plain?

- (i) Love for their village
- (ii) most fertile land on the earth
- (iii) because of their job
- (iv) none of the above

(d)What are the pollutants that make river Ganga very dirty?

- (i) Metal thrown out by tanneries
- (ii) waste produced by industries
- (iii) urban waste from Different cities
- (iv) all of the above

(e) What is antonym of 'afforestation'?

- (i) Forestation
- (ii) syliculture
- (iii) Arboriculture
- (iv) deforestation

(f) Write any two main pillars of the 'Namami Gange programme'.

(g) Most of people in India consider the Ganga as.....

(h) The irony is that inspite of being the most worshipped river, Ganga is also the dirtiest river. (true or false)

2) The following passage has not been edited. There is an error in each of the lines against which a blank is given. Identify the error and write it along with the correction in the answer sheet.

	Incorrect	correct
The crow must has known	(a).....
something is wrong because it		
kept on flying up and circle the	(b).....
tree, reluctant to settled in it	(c).....
and reluctant on fly away	(d).....

3. Rearrange the groups of words to make meaningful sentences.

- a) love/of/others/manners/good/ and/win/ the/respect
- b) when/best/they/can/is/one/learnt/be/young
- c) saves/ us/punishment/polite/answer/a/from/also

d) is/who/stranger/respectful/person/a/even/a/likes

4. You are Amrit, living at Gangtok. You are a subscriber of a weekly magazine named, The Young Scientists. Lately you have not been receiving the copies of magazine on a regular basis. Write a letter to the Circulation Manager regarding the non receipt of the copies.