

1.

EXPLANATION: FIRE AND ICE (FIRST FLIGHT)

Introduction :- Robert Frost's poem "Fire and Ice" expresses the profound idea that the world would end in either of two ways, either by ice or fire. Both the components are compared with self-destructing human emotions: hatred and desire. The poem, very artistically, underpins the philosophy that we let our emotions rule us and if don't control them they will surely destroy everything around us. Similarly, he thinks fire and ice, both are just as competent in bringing the world to a catastrophic end.

Some say the world will end in fire
Some say in ice.
From what I've tasted of desire
I hold with those who favour fire.

Desire- a strong feeling of wanting to have something or wishing for something to happen
Favour- approval, support

The poem expresses the profound idea that the world would end in either of two ways, either by ice or fire. One group is of the opinion that someday the Earth's core will get so heated up that it would lead to fire destroying the earth's surface. On the other hand, the second group says that if the temperature goes down to an extent that makes life on Earth impossible, it would have the same catastrophic effect. The poet then compares fire and ice with the destructive features of human emotions; desire and hatred. He says that from what he is aware about "fiery desires", he would favour the ones who say that it would be fire. By saying so, he brings about the idea that human beings let their emotions rule them and the consequence of unmonitored longing is chaos.

But if it had to perish twice,
I think I know enough of hate
To say that for destruction ice
Is also great
And would suffice.

Perish- die
Suffice- be sufficient

Then by not waving off the first option of fire, he considers if the world has to expire twice, ice would be equally competent in ending it. He brings about a contrast between "ice" and "hatred". The human capability of insensitivity and hatred has the potential for inner destruction. Though slow and steady, it has the same effect that desire has on us. So if given an option between fire and ice, ice would be just as good as fire to destroy the world.

Literary devices

1. Rhyming scheme- Aba

abc

bcb

2. Assonance- it is repetition of vowel sounds in same line. The repetition is at different places in different words.

Example- The long sound of “o” in “I hold with those who favour fire”

3. Alliteration- alliteration is the repetition of a consonant sound at the start of two or more closely placed words.

Example- The sound of “f” in “favour fire”, “w” in “world will”

4. Imagery- Imagery is used to make readers perceive things involving their five senses.

Example- “Some say the world will end in fire”

“To say that for destruction ice Is also great”

5. Anaphora- the repetition of a word or expression at the start of two or more consecutive lines.

Example - “Some say” is repeated at the start of lines 1 and 2.

6. Personification- Personification is to give human qualities to inanimate objects. In this poem, “fire” and “ice” are capable of destruction. Thus, the poet personifies fire and ice by giving them mind and power to destroy anything.

7. Enjambment- it is defined as the thought or clause that does not come to an end at a line break, rather it moves over to the next line.

Example- “From what I’ve tasted of desire

I hold with those who favor fire”

Answer the following questions :-

1. For Frost, what do ‘fire’ and ‘ice’ stand for ?
2. How has Frost brought out the contrasting ideas in the poem?
3. How does Robert Frost caution the common man?
4. Why does the poet hold with those who favour ‘fire’?
5. The poet presents two reasons which will lead to the destruction of the humanity. What value do you garner from the two possible causes provided by him?
6. ‘But if it had to perish twice’. How will the world twice?

EXPLANATION : (A Triumph of Surgery)

CHARACTERS:

James Herriot: James is a veterinary surgeon, who proves to be a capable doctor and a wise individual. He is an animal lover and a caring guardian.

Mrs. Pumphrey: Mrs. Pumphrey is a wealthy single woman. She is very much attached to her dog, Tricky. She is very loving but weak at heart.

Tricky: Tricky is a lazy and fat dog who loves food. He is very fond of his owner. He turns out to be energetic and lively after recovering from his illness.

The story starts when Mrs. Pumphrey, a rich lady takes her dog out for a walk. A nearby veterinary doctor who knows the lady sees the dog and is shocked as he sees that the dog looks like a bloated sausage with a leg at each end. He advises her to stop giving him unhealthy things to eat but Mrs. Pumphrey is not able to refuse him. Soon he falls sick and the doctor is called. The narrator, Mr. Herriot then somehow takes Tricky, the dog to the hospital even though he knows that Mrs. Pumphrey is not ready to leave her dog and nearly fainted just by hearing these words. Then he takes the dog along and puts a bed for him in his surgery. The dog doesn't move much nor eats anything for the first two days. On the second day he looks around and whimpers a bit. He wanted to go out on the third day and started playing with the bigger dogs when he was taken out. He also licked the bowls of other dogs clean on the third day.

Then his condition started improving very fast. He started fighting for his meals with other dogs. Then when this news reached Mrs. Pumphrey, she started sending him eggs as she thought that Tricky was recovering from an illness and needed energy foods. Mr. Herriot and his partners started eating those eggs for morning breakfast. Then for improving Tricky's blood, Mrs. Pumphrey started sending in bottles of wine which was again consumed by Mr. Herriot. He used to take two glasses before lunch and some more glasses while having his lunch. Then when she started sending in bottles of brandy for Tricky that was the time when Mr. Herriot thought that he would really like to keep Tricky as a permanent guest in the surgery. Mr. Herriot used to be really happy someday by having two extra eggs every morning. Then having few glasses of wine in the afternoon and closing the day by having brandy at night. But then he took a wise decision and called up Mrs. Pumphrey as she was really worried and on this side Tricky was ready to be taken back home. Tricky was really happy to see his mistress and jumped into the car. Mrs. Pumphrey said that she won't be able to ever thank him for what he had done and also, that his surgery had been successful as Tricky was now cured.

Answer the following questions:-

1. What kind of a person do you think the narrator, a veterinary surgeon, is? Would you say he is tactful as well as full of commonsense?
2. Do you think Tricky was happy to go home? What do you think will happen now?
3. Do you think this is a real-life episode, or mere fiction? Or is it a mixture of both?
4. Why is Mrs Pumphrey worried about Tricky?
5. What does she do to help him? Is she wise in this?
6. Who does 'I' refer to in this story?
7. Is the narrator as rich as Tricky's mistress?
8. How does he treat the dog?
9. Why is he tempted to keep Tricky on as a permanent guest?
10. Why does Mrs Pumphrey think the dog's recovery is "a triumph of surgery"?

GRAMMAR AND WRITING

1. the member of the hockey team of your school. Today you got an opportunity to play for your school in an inter-school hockey tournament. You played excellently and your team won. You and all your team-mates are very happy. Write a diary entry in about 100-150 words describing the event and your feeling about this grand success.
2. Recently you saw the film MS Dhoni- the untold story. It was very inspiring. You were highly impressed with Dhoni's attitude and zeal towards his passion. Write an article in about 100-150 words on the topic- Let the child follow his/her passion.

3. Develop a short story with the help of the starting line. Give a suitable title to your story. (150-200 words)
 - A. Once upon a time there was a crocodile and he was a friend of monkey who lived on the tree.....
 - B. It was an amazing day. Full of fun and frolic. We all stood aghast to see a strange flying object over our heads. We started guessing.....

4. Fill in **any four** of the blanks choosing the most appropriate option from the ones given in the box. Write the answers in your answer-sheet against the correct blank numbers:
 My mother was both a mother and a father (a)..... me. She thought us the right values. Until she passed away, (b).....all looked towards her (c).....support. We were very scared of her. She was a wonderful cook (d).....taught us all how to cook. She (e)to provide emotional support to us.

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|--------------|-----------|-------------|---------------|
| (a) (i) to | (ii) of | (iii) in | (iv) at |
| (b) (i) they | (ii) we | (iii) she | (iv) then |
| (c) (i) of | (ii) for | (iii) in | (iv) at |
| (d) (i) or | (ii) and | (iii)but | (iv) until |
| (e) (i) uses | (ii) used | (iii) using | (iv) were use |

5. In the following passage, one word has been omitted in each line against which a blank space is given. Write the missing word along with the word that comes before and the word that comes after it. Ensure that the word that forms your answer is underlined. Do **any four**:

	Before	Missing	After
Morning assembly is most feature	(a) .....	.....	.....
Of school curriculum students	(b) .....	.....	.....
learn the value of collective prayer	(c) .....	.....	.....
and exposed to the need to learn	(d) .....	.....	.....
moral values. We must not forget they	(e) .....	.....	.....
are the base of our life			

6. Rearrange any four of the following words or phrases to make meaningful sentences.
 - (i) own/ their/live/overconfident/thoughts/people/within
 - (ii) others/they/of/know/unaware/are/but/themselves/they
 - (iii) experience/ others/use/of/of/they/unbale/the/are/to/make
 - (iv) habit/concerned/all/this/highly/to/of/kind/damaging/is
 - (v) our team/in spite of/played very well/having/cost