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Class-X

English

First Flight

Poem - 7

The Trees

Part - 2



Adrienne Rich



Neha Rajvanshi

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Stumbling : लड़खडाना

My head is full of whispers
which tomorrow will be silent.
Listen. The glass is breaking.
The trees are stumbling forward



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Flash : चमकना

into the night. Winds rush to meet them.
The moon is broken like a mirror,
its pieces flash now in the crown
of the tallest oak.

Simile





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SUMMARY

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In this poem the trees are shown to struggle for moving out in the forests. The trees inside the homes want to break free from the walls and go back to nature. Symbolically the trees represent women who are kept inside the houses and not given proper roles and opportunity in the society. But now they are determined the go back to society and give their contribution for

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a developed society. In the absence of the women, there are many things that are missing in our outer world but now the poet is hopeful that our society will be full of women again and they will build a good human society.



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Literary Devices Used in the Poem

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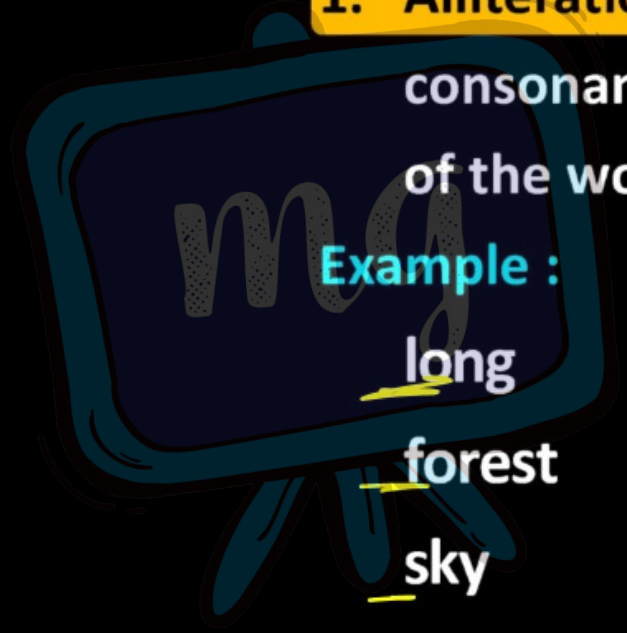

1. **Alliteration :** Repetition of the same consonant sound at the beginning of the words.

Example :

long - letters

forest - from

sky - still

leaves - lichen

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2. Simile : Comparison between two objects using like or as.

Example :

like newhy discharged patients

like a mirror.

like a voice

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3. Anaphora : Repetition of the same word at the beginning of the sentence.

Example :

no

no

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4. Personification : Giving human qualities to nonhuman objects.

Example :

The trees are moving out

Sun buy its feet

All night the roots work

Long cramped boughts

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Free Verse



5. Extended Metaphor : The Poem is the example of extended metaphor, where trees are compared with women.

6. Enjambment : When the same sentence continues to the next line without any pause.

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The Trees
[Comprehension]

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Question 1. (i) Find, in the first stanza, three things that cannot happen in a treeless forest

Answer : (i) The three things that can not happen in a treeless forest are -

(I) The sitting of a bird on tree.

(II) The hiding of the insects.

(III) The sun burying its feet in the shadow of the forest.

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Question 1. (ii) What picture do these words create in your mind: "... sun bury its feet in shadow..."? What could the poet mean by the sun's 'feet'?

Answer : (ii) The sun's 'feet' refers to the rays of the sun that fall on the earth. When there is no shadow on the ground, because

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there are no trees, the rays fall directly on the ground. In a forest with trees, the shadow hides the sun rays.

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Question 2. (i) Where are the trees in the poem? What do their roots, their leaves, and their twigs do?

Answer : (i) In the poem, the trees are trapped in the house. The roots work all night to disengage themselves from the cracks in the veranda floor. The leaves try very

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hard to move towards the glass and put a lot of pressure on it, so that it breaks. While the small twigs get stiff with exertion.

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Question 2. (ii) What does the poet compare their branches to?

Answer : (ii) The poet compares the branches to newly discharged patients of a hospital. The large branches of the trees become cramped due to the roof above them, and when they get free they rush stumbling to the

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outside world. While doing so, they look half dazed like the patient, who wait for a long time to get out of the hospital.



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Question 3. (i) How does the poet describe the moon: (a) at the beginning of the third stanza, and (b) at its end? What causes this change?



Answer : (i) Poet says that the full moon is shining in the clear sky in the fresh night. At the end, she describes that the moon breaks

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into pieces like a broken mirror and shines on the heads of the tallest oak trees. As the trees move outside, they cover some of the shine of the moon and it can be seen only in parts. This is why, it seems that the moon has broken into pieces.

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Question 3. (ii) What happens to the house when the trees move out of it?

Answer : (ii) When the trees move out of the house, the glasses break and the whispers of the trees vanish, leaving the house silent.



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Question 3. (iii) Why do you think the poet does not mention "the departure of the forest from the house" in her letters?



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Answer : (iii) The poet does not mention about 'the departure of the forest from the house' in her letters probably because she is both puzzled at the sudden happening. She did not expect the forest to move out of the house one day.

