

JINENDER SONI
Founder, MISSION GYAN

Poem-2 | Fire and Ice

Worksheet-2

Multiple Choice Questions

1. **What is the rhyme scheme of the poem Fire and Ice?**
(a) Aaba bcbcb (b) abaa bcbcb
(c) Abab ababa (d) abcb aabcb
2. **What would be a better option to end the earth?**
(a) Both are equally competent (b) Ice
(c) Fire (d) Diseases
3. **Who is the poet of the poem Fire and Ice?**
(a) Ben Jonson (b) William Cowper
(c) Robert Frost (d) William Blake
4. **What does the poet compare fire with?**
(a) Hot (b) Desire
(c) Hatred (d) Both hatred
5. **Which narrative style has been used in the poem Fire and Ice?**
(a) Fourth person narrative (b) Third person narrative
(c) First person narrative (d) Second person narrative
6. **In person Fire and Ice, what does violent desire refer to?**
(a) Fire (b) Ice
(c) Both Fire and Ice (d) None of these
7. **What will fire do to the world?**
(a) Put the world to a new beginning.
(b) Make the world happy.
(c) Put the world to an end.
(d) Make the world developed
8. **According to the poem Fire and Ice, what may bring an end to this world?**
(a) World war (b) Peace
(c) Hate and desire (d) Love
9. **Name the poetic device used in the line I Hold with those who favour fire. (Fire and Ice)**
(a) Alliteration (b) Iteration
(c) Both Assonance and Alliteration (d) Assonance

10. In poem Fire and Ice, what does ice symbolize?

- (a) Violent desire
- (b) hatred
- (c) Peace
- (d) love

Fill in the blanks :

- 11. _____ is the central theme of the poem 'Fire and Ice'.
- 12. _____ would suffice if the world were to perish twice.

True / False

- 13. "Some say the world will end in fire." Metaphor has been used here in this line in the poem Fire and Ice.
- 14. "But if it had to perish twice." 'it' stands, for world in this line.

Very Short Type Questions

- 15. "But if it had to perish twice"; how will the world perish twice? Answer in the context of the poem Fire and Ice.
- 16. Which two ideas about how the world will end have been mentioned in the poem Fire and ice? Which idea does the poet support more?

Short Type Questions

- 17. To say that for destruction ice is also great for the poet, what does ice stand for? How is it sufficient to bring
- 18. What is the message of the poem Fire and Ice?

Essay Type Questions

- 19. How has Frost brought out the contrasting ideas in the poem Fire and Ice?
- 20. Write a brief note on how Frost deals with the theme in his poem Fire and Ice.

HOTS

- 21. **Assertion (A)** : The poem Fire and Ice emphasizes the certainty of the world's end.
Reason (R) : The poet claims that the end is only possible through fire and not ice.
 - (a) Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A
 - (b) Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A
 - (c) A is true, but R is false
 - (d) A is false, but R is true

21. **Assertion (A)** : The poet believes that desire is as destructive as hatred.

Reason (R) : He compares desire to fire and hatred to ice, both capable of ending the world.

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

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Answer & Solution

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1. (b)
Follow the pronunciation of last words of each line and name same sound words like 'a' then next sound with 'b' and so on. The poet has used terza rima rhyme scheme where the second line of the first tercet rhymes completely with the first and third line of the next.
2. (a) Both are equally competent
3. (c)
Robert Frost is the poet of 'Fire and Ice'.
4. (b) Desire
5. (c)
The poet has used first-person narration. He is speaking as himself and using 'I' time and again to express his own opinion regarding the end of the world.
6. (a)
Man is propelled by violent desire to commit evil acts. Desire is like fire and is more liable to bring about the end of the world.
7. (c) Put the world to an end
8. (c)
Fire and Ice is a symbolic poem. Fire symbolises desire and ice symbolises hate. The poet says that these are the two causes which may bring this world to an end.
9. (c) Both Assonance and Alliteration
10. (b)
Ice symbolises man's hatred for each other. Hate causes man to be indifferent to the suffering and sorrow of fellow human beings. This hatred also makes man commit heinous and inhumane acts.
11. World peace
12. Ice
13. True
14. True
15. According to the poet, the world will end due to the 'fire', which symbolises 'desire' but if the world has to end twice then it will be due to the hatred which is symbolised by 'ice'. The poet feels that there is enough hatred spreading among the people in the world to perish the world twice because unlike fire, ice or hatred affects slowly and gradually and makes the souls of people insensitive to anybody's pain.
16. Although both the ideas mentioned in the poem about the end of the world are hypothetical, the poet stresses that the world will either end in fire or in ice. Though the poet thinks both ways to be destructive, yet he seems to favour the idea of the destruction of the world in the fire a little more than that of in ice.

17. 'Ice' symbolises 'hatred'. Hate is powerful as desire and maybe, more powerful and ferocious than it. While desire consumes quickly, hate can occur and linger in people's minds and hearts for years and sometimes even lifetimes. Hate consumes the hater perhaps even more than the person or group. Thus the hate is sufficient to bring destruction.
18. The metaphor of 'Fire and Ice' is used very effectively to convey a definite message to the readers. 'Fire' stands for our uncontrolled passions which are disastrous for human beings. Similarly cold reasoning devoid of human love leads to emotional numbness and indifference. This hatred will lead to the end of this world.
19. 'Desire' propels us in hot pursuit of something, hence, it is compared with fire. The lust to fulfil uncontrolled desires traps a person in a bog from where he cannot be saved and hence, demolished in every possible manner. 'Hatred' makes us cold towards others' feelings. The coldness of ice can numb our senses and the coldness of our hearts can numb our kindness.
20. Generally, the poetic themes of Frost's poems deal with common topics but his handling of these common topics in an uncommon way is a unique style of Frost. To Frost, the incident is not so important, but he gives importance to its dramatic possibilities. Truth for Frost is not a philosophical concept, but rather a rational observation of facts and their representation. This is the reason why there is so little philosophy in Frost and so much wit and wisdom. The poem Fire and Ice is a symbolic one where Frost has metaphorically used these two words of extreme to represent two contrasting human emotions, i.e, desire and hatred. He depicts how these two emotions are capable of causing damage and immutable destruction of the world leading to its end. The poet leads his reader towards wisdom by giving him some pleasure at the very
21. (c)
The poet does emphasize that the world will end, but he considers both fire and ice equally capable of causing destruction. Therefore, the Reason is false.