

CLASS – 10

ENGLISH

First Flight

Poem : The Trees

Part – 2

Comprehension

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Enjambment (free verse)

③ → The trees inside are moving out into the forest,
→ the forest that was empty all these days
→ where no bird could sit c

① Anaphora

no insect hide d ② Personification

no sun bury its feet in shadow
the forest that was empty all these nights
will be full of trees by morning.



② Simile

All night the roots work
to disengage themselves from the cracks
in the veranda floor.

① Metaphor

② Simile
(like/as)

The leaves strain toward the glass
small twigs stiff with exertion
long-cramped boughs shuffling under the
roof

'as'

like newly discharged patients
half-dazed, moving
to the clinic doors.

- ① Enjambment
- ② Simile
- ③ Alliteration

I sit inside, doors open to the veranda
writing long letters

in which I scarcely mention the departure
of the forest from the house.

The night is fresh, the whole moon shines
in a sky still open

the smell of leaves and lichen
still reaches like a voice into the rooms.

① Enjambment

My head is full of whispers
which tomorrow will be silent.

② Simile

Listen. The glass is breaking.

The trees are stumbling forward
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.

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Literary Devices Used

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

Example :

- long - letters
- forest - from
- sky - still
- leaves - lichen

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

Example :

like newly discharged patients

like a mirror

like a voice

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

Example :

no insect hide

no sun bury its feet....

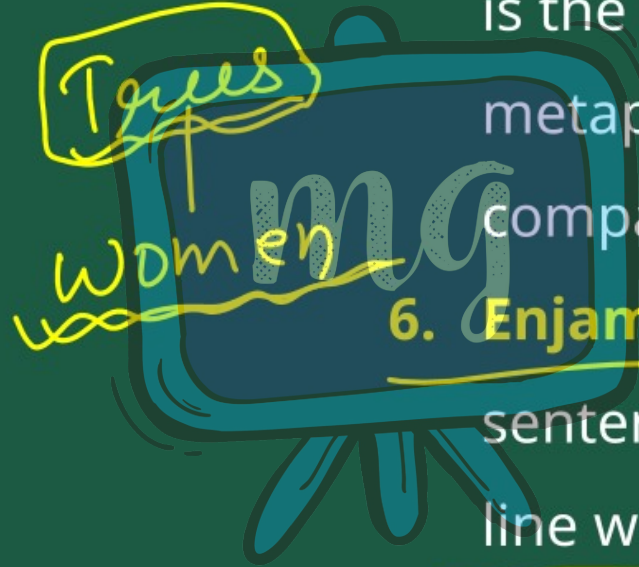
4. **Personification:** Giving human qualities to nonhuman objects.

Example :

- ▣ The trees are moving out
- ▣ Sun bury its feet
- ▣ All night the roots work
- ▣ Long cramped boughs

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.

- ☛ The complete poem is an example of Enjambment.

COMPREHENSION

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

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- ① sitting of a bird
 - ② insect life
 - ③ sun being

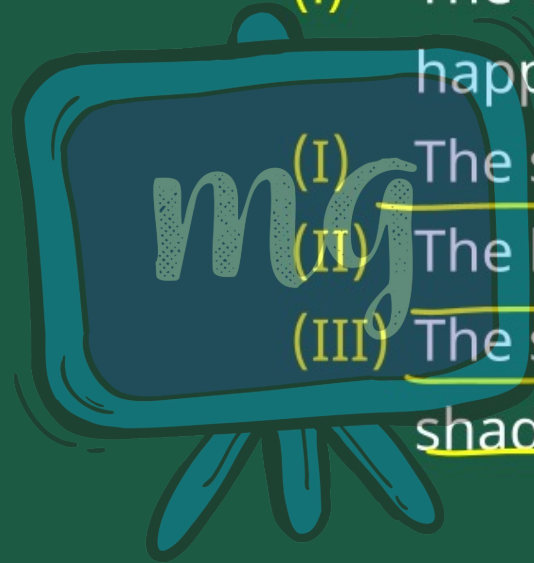
Answer :

(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.



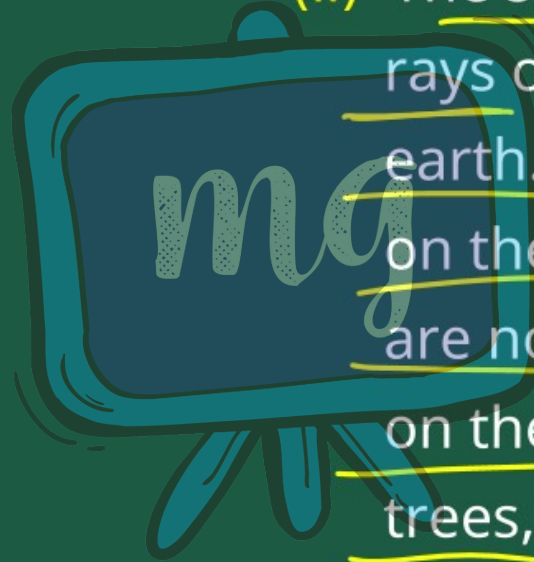
Q.1 (ii) What picture do these words
create in your mind: "... sun
bury its feet in shadow..."?
What could the poet mean by
the sun's 'feet'?



Rays

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

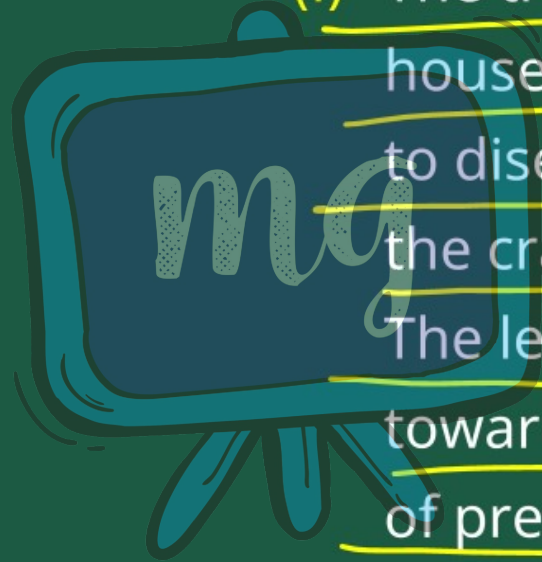


Q.2 (i) Where are the trees in the
poem? What do their roots,
their leaves, and their twigs
do?



Answer :

(i) 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 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.



Q.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 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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Q.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?

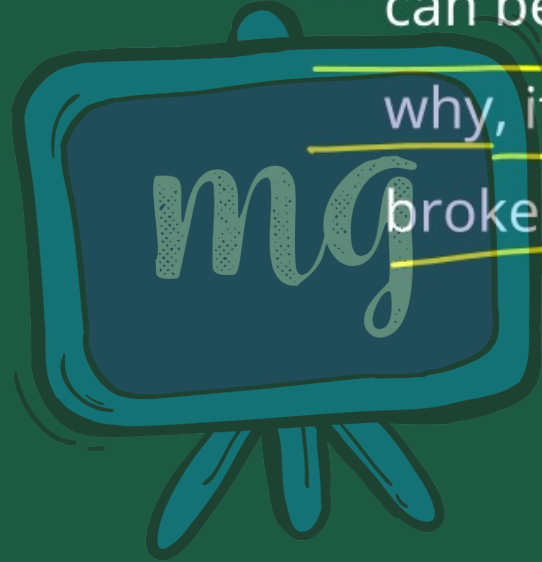


Answer :

- (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 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.

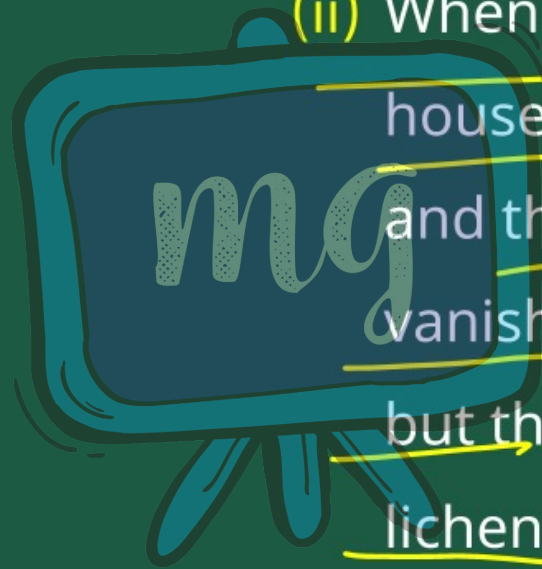


Q.3 (ii) What happens to the house
when the trees move out of
it?



Answer :

(ii) When the trees move out of the house, the glasses get broken and the whispers of the trees vanish, leaving the house silent but the smell of the leaves and lichen still reaches the room of the house.



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



Answer :

(iii) The poet does not mention about 'the departure of the forest from the house' in her letters probably because of the two reasons :

(I) She is puzzled at the sudden happening. She did not expect the forest to move out of the house one day.

(II) It is humans, who did not care
for nature in the first place. So,
maybe, the poet now thinks that
nobody would be interested in
knowing about the efforts that
the trees are making in order to
set themselves free. It seems
that this whole beauty of trees
moving back to forests can be
seen and felt only by the poet.

