



Grade 12

A Thing of Beauty

Read the extract and answer the questions that follow:

1. "yes, in spite of all, Some shape of beauty moves away the pall From our dark spirits. Such the sun, the moon.... Daffodils"

- a. What does 'in spite of all' refer to?**
- b. What, according to the poet, drives away the sadness from our life?**
- c. What does the reference 'simple sheep' symbolize?**
- d. What moves away the pall from our dark spirits?**

2. "A thing of beauty is a joy forever

Its loveliness increases,

it will never Pass into nothingness;

but will keep a bower quiet for us,

and a sleep full of sweet dreams,

and health, and quiet breathing....

A flowery band to bind us to the earth." (Board Question)

- a. What are the effects of beautiful things on man's spirit?**
- b. Why does a thing of beauty never pass into nothingness?**
- c. What is meant by 'bower'?**
- d. What do we do every day?**
- e. How does a thing of beauty remain a joy forever?**

3. Some shape of beauty moves away the pall From our dark spirits..... simple sheep."

- (a)What removes the pall from our dark spirits?**
- (b)What sprouts a shady boon for sheep and how?**

(c) Find words from the passage that mean

(i) covering (ii) blessing

(i) pall

(ii) boon

(d) Name the poem and the poet.

4. Answer the following questions in 30-40 words.

1. What according to Keats are the things that cause suffering and pain?

2. What makes human beings love life in spite of all the suffering?

3. Why does the poet say 'mighty dead'?

Practice Questions-Short Answer Questions

1. How do we wreath a flowery band?

2. Why do human beings suffer or what depresses the human soul?

3. What does Keats mean by the 'grandeur of doom'?

4. How do we bind ourselves to the earth every morning?

5. Why and how is 'grandeur' associated with the mighty dead?



THE VILLAGE
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL
"We Nurture Dreams"

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Answer Key

Read the extract and answer the questions that follow:

1. "yes, in spite of all, Some shape of beauty moves away the pall From our dark spirits. Such the sun, the moon.... Daffodils"

a. What does 'in spite of all' refer to?

The expression refers to all the pessimistic and negative thoughts that obstruct our way to happiness. In spite of the sense of hopelessness and gloom that overshadow and darken our way, we are able to find happiness in the beautiful objects of nature.

b. What, according to the poet, drives away the sadness from our life? Beauty, in shape or form, helps in driving away the sadness and despair from the dark recesses of our spirit.

c. What does the reference 'simple sheep' symbolize?

Lambs and sheep are envisioned as the embodiments of innocent and serene beauty. Jesus Christ, as an apostle of peace, was a shepherd and was seen surrounded by his flock of sheep, his followers. The poet has made specific reference to the sheep as symbols of 'divine beauty'.

d. What moves away the pall from our dark spirits?

Nature's beauty moves away the pall from our dark spirits.

2. "A thing of beauty is a joy forever

Its loveliness increases,

it will never Pass into nothingness;

but will keep a bower quiet for us,

and a sleep full of sweet dreams,

and health, and quiet breathing....

A flowery band to bind us to the earth." (Board Question)

a. What are the effects of beautiful things on man's spirit?

A thing of beauty provides eternal and everlasting joy to us. Whenever we are in a sad mood we can relive the joyful experiences in life and the happiness it gave us.

b. Why does a thing of beauty never pass into nothingness?

The joy provided by a thing of beauty is everlasting. It leaves an indelible imprint in our mind. Its loveliness increases manifold each time we think about it and thus we are forever able to relive the joyful experience.

c. What is meant by 'bower'?

A bower refers to a quiet, peaceful place under the shade of trees.

d. What do we do every day?

Every day we are wreathing a flowering band which binds us to the earth and enables us to live life despite the dejection that surrounds us.

e. How does a thing of beauty remain a joy forever?

A thing of beauty provides eternal and everlasting joy to us. Whenever we are in a pensive mood we can relive the joyful experience and happiness it gave us.

3. Some shape of beauty moves away the pall From our dark spirits..... simple sheep."

(a)What removes the pall from our dark spirits?

A thing of beauty removes the pall or cover of unhappiness from our dark spirits.

(b)What sprouts a shady boon for sheep and how?

The old and young trees sprout branches to provide shade and shelter to the sheep. It is a blessing for the sheep against the harsh sun.

(c)Find words from the passage that mean

(i) covering (ii) blessing

(i) pall

(ii) boon

(d) Name the poem and the poet.

'A Thing of beauty' by John Keats.

4. Answer the following questions in 30-40 words.

1. What according to Keats are the things that cause suffering and pain?

The poet says that a scarcity of good-natured people or in other words the wicked people outnumber the good people. The source of all our sorrows is either ill-health or another human being.

2. What makes human beings love life in spite of all the suffering?

The poet says that the beautiful things on earth lift the pall off our spirits and make life worth living. Each beautiful thing is like a link that forms a chain or wreath that binds us to this earth.

3. Why does the poet say 'mighty dead'?

The great ancestors are respected for their glorious deeds. Physically mighty as in mighty warriors or mentally mighty as in great poets, writers or philosophers. Their great lives provide inspiration for the living through their beauty just as their works continue to do.

Practice Questions-Short Answer Questions

- 1. How do we wreath a flowery band?**
- 2. Why do human beings suffer or what depresses the human soul?**
- 3. What does Keats mean by the 'grandeur of doom'?**
- 4. How do we bind ourselves to the earth every morning?**
- 5. Why and how is 'grandeur' associated with the mighty dead?**