

On Killing a Tree

Comprehension Questions:

1. What is the central theme of the poem "On Killing a Tree" by Gieve Patel?
2. Describe the process the poet suggests for killing a tree.
3. How does the poet describe the resilience and determination of a tree?
4. What emotions or attitudes towards nature does the poem convey?
5. How does the poem reflect human intervention and its impact on nature?

Analysis and Interpretation Questions:

6. Discuss the significance of the title "On Killing a Tree." How does it relate to the poem's themes?
7. How does the poem use imagery to depict the tree and its destruction?
8. What symbolic meanings can be associated with the act of killing a tree in the poem?
9. How does the poem explore the conflict between nature and human progress?
10. Explore the metaphorical implications of the tree's roots and growth in the poem.

Language and Literary Devices:

11. Identify and explain examples of personification in "On Killing a Tree."
12. How does the poet use symbolism to convey deeper meanings in the poem?
13. Discuss the use of metaphors in the poem and their effectiveness in conveying the poet's message.
14. How does the poem's rhyme scheme contribute to its overall effect?
15. Analyze the use of sensory details (sight, sound, touch) in depicting the tree and its destruction.

Comparative Questions:

16. Compare the theme of environmental destruction in "On Killing a Tree" with another poem or text you have studied.
17. How does Gieve Patel's style in this poem differ from other poets you have studied?
18. Compare the tone of "On Killing a Tree" with another poem of your choice.
19. What similarities can be drawn between the destruction of a tree in the poem and a contemporary environmental issue?
20. Compare the structure and form of "On Killing a Tree" with another poem.