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| GRADE: VIII | ENGLISH | Categories: SAQ, LAQ, MCQ |
| | The Lost Dances of Cranes | |

| I | SHORT ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS |
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| 1 | Who is being addressed in the poem? The speaker is addressing the cranes. The word 'ghosts' in the second line indicates that they are already dead. |
| 2 | Are the cranes alive or dead? The speaker is addressing the cranes. The word 'ghosts' in the second line indicates that they are already dead. |
| 3 | Which are the two dances mentioned in the poem? The two dances refer to the dance of the birds that could once be seen in the fields and the dance of the urban machines that are used in constructing cities |
| 4 | What do the two dances represent? The birds' dance represents the beauty of nature while the machines represent the destruction of this beauty. |
| 5 | Why does the poet refer to the dance of the cranes as ghostly? Ans: The cranes no longer dance in that place as they used to; only their memory remains. This is the reason why the poet refers to the dance of the cranes as ghostly. |
| 6 | What is left of the cranes which used to dance in the fields? 'Fading crackle of energy' and 'some grainy video footage' is all that is left of the cranes |
| 7 | Which cranes, of a different kind, have usurped their place? Ans: The mechanical cranes used in constructing new buildings. |
| 8 | Do the words 'all that remain' indicate that a lot remains or that very little remains? What is the condition of what remains? The words, 'all that remains' indicates that very little is left of the cranes, and the words 'fading' and 'grainy' tell us that those remains are in very poor condition. |
| 9 | Why are the mechanical cranes described as dancing? The cranes seem as if they are dancing with their slender arms swinging about while transferring building materials. |
| 10 | Today, how can we get to see the beautiful birds dancing? |

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| | Ans: We can see the dance of beautiful birds only by watching old grainy videos. | | | | | |
| 11 | <p>What is the irony in the last verse?</p> <p>Ans: The irony is that people appreciate the dance of the cranes, watching videos and marvelling at the wonders of the natural world, yet, are not conscious of the fact that we have been responsible for the destruction of the natural habitat. We do not even realise that we have to do something proactive to restore nature, instead of merely watching it on videos.</p> | | | | | |
| 12 | <p>How does the poet challenge the reader of this poem?</p> <p>Ans: The poet implicitly challenges its readers to do something besides watching television about the losses of the natural world. She tries to sensitise her readers to do something to revive what has been lost.</p> | | | | | |
| 13 | <p>What is the significance of the title?</p> <p>Ans: Through the title, the poet signals the readers that the poem is about something from the past that is no longer available in the present.</p> | | | | | |
| II | LONG ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS | | | | | |
| 14 | <p>How does the speaker express her displeasure about the extinction of past glory in the world around her?</p> <p>Ans: From the beginning, the poet signals that some beautiful things of the past are no longer available in the present. In the past, the dance of the beautiful crane used to enchant those who could witness it. Now, in the same fields, one sees only the mechanical crane occupying a large area and only the movement of the crane machine can be seen now. The speaker seems to indicate that the near extinction of cranes is due to man's desire to build structures on the very home of the cranes, namely the wetlands where the cranes could survive. She feels all that remains of the beautiful crane is only in the form of video footage or nature documentaries. People do not seem to realise that they are poor substitutes for the wonders the world once held.</p> | | | | | |
| 15 | <p>Who listens to poor-quality video material? How do they react to it?</p> <p>Ans: People in the 'new cities' view / listen to the poor quality audio/video material. They are seen to marvel at the energetic mating dance of the cranes. But this image is one of the past when the birds used to arrive in due season to breed. Their reaction is one of joy and wonder which is in sharp contrast to the poet's reaction. The poet is warning the readers about a bleak future. The image of the blurred video-clipping of the dance of the cranes is a sad reminder of the natural pattern of life that we are sacrificing to our misplaced zeal for urbanisation.</p> | | | | | |
| III | MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS | | | | | |
| 16 | <p>Who wrote the poem 'The Lost Dances of Cranes'?</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; text-align: center;">(a) Juliet Warren</td> <td style="width: 50%; text-align: center;">(b) Juliet Wilson</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">(c) Juliet Hudson</td> <td style="text-align: center;">(d) Juliet Warner</td> </tr> </table> | | (a) Juliet Warren | (b) Juliet Wilson | (c) Juliet Hudson | (d) Juliet Warner |
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| 17 | What do you mean by cranes of another kind? | |
| | (a) Different species of Cranes | (b) Different species of birds |
| | (c) Machines that are used to clean objects | (d) Machines that are used to lift heavy objects |
| 18 | Memories of cranes were left in _____. | |
| | (a) Grainy video footage | (b) Clear video footage |
| | (c) Clear pictures | (d) Unclear pictures |
| 19 | What do expressions like "lost", "empty" and "only ghosts" indicate | |
| | (a) Sense of hope | (b) Sense of changing time |
| | (c) Sense of loss | (d) Sense of happiness |
| 20 | Which kind of poetry does the poet of 'The Lost Dances of Cranes' write? | |
| | (a) Confessional poems | (b) Romantic poems |
| | (c) Nature poems | (d) Environmental poems |