

1. Read the given stanza and answer the questions :

[10]

The heart, a pilgrim upon earth,
Finds often, when it needs,
That words are of as little worth
As just so many weeds.

I. Why has the poet referred to the heart as 'a pilgrim'?

II. When would a heart 'need' words?

III. Complete the sentence with an appropriate reason.

The words are like weeds because _____ .

IV. Mention two emotions the heart might be experiencing when it finds words to be of 'little worth'.

V. What do these lines suggest about the nature of communication?

Ans. :

1. The poet refers to the heart as a pilgrim because, like a traveller on a journey, the human heart moves through different experiences and emotions in life while searching for understanding, comfort, and expression.
2. A heart needs words when a person wants to express deep feelings such as love, sorrow, gratitude, or sympathy to others.
3. The words are like weeds because **they may grow in large numbers but often fail to express true feelings or bring comfort.**
4. Two emotions could be:
 - Deep sorrow / grief
 - Intense love or compassion
5. These lines suggest that words alone are sometimes not enough to express true emotions; genuine feelings are often deeper than what language can convey.

If words could satisfy the chest,
The world might hold a feast;
But words, when summoned to the test,
Oft satisfy the least!

VI. How can words 'satisfy the chest'?

VII. How can words be 'summoned to the test'?

VIII. What does 'the world' holding 'a feast' imply?

IX. Complete the sentence with an appropriate reason.

The poet mentions that words satisfy the least because _____ .

X. Select the word that does not mean the same as 'oft'.

A. always B. usually C. frequently D. often



- Ans. :** 1. Words can 'satisfy the chest' when they successfully express the deep feelings of the heart and bring emotional comfort or relief.
2. Words are 'summoned to the test' when people try to use them to express strong emotions or important thoughts to see if they can truly convey what they feel.
3. It implies that if words could truly satisfy the heart, people everywhere would feel great joy and celebration.
4. **they often fail to express the depth of true feelings and emotions.**
5. 'Oft' means **often / frequently / usually.**

2. **Answer the following six questions in about 40- 50 words each :** [15]

I. What is the comparison that the poet draws between words and 'empty air'? In the poem "Words".

Ans. : The poet compares words to empty air to show that many words are meaningless and hollow. Just like empty air has no substance, words without true feelings or sincerity fail to communicate real emotions.

II. According to the poet meaningful words are more precious than a lot of them. Explain. In the poem "Words".

Ans. : According to the poet, a few meaningful words are more precious than many words because words that are sincere and thoughtful can truly express feelings and touch the heart. In contrast, a large number of empty or careless words often fail to convey real emotions and therefore have little value.

III. Do you agree that the poet presents contrasting ideas related to 'words' in the poem "Words"? If yes, why? If no, why not?

Ans. : Yes, the poet presents contrasting ideas. On one hand, words are shown as powerful and valuable when they truly express feelings. On the other hand, the poet also shows that words can be useless, like weeds or empty air, when they fail to convey genuine emotions.

IV. The theme of loneliness hovers over the poem. Support this statement with examples from the text. In the poem "Words".

Ans. : The theme of loneliness is suggested in the poem through the poet's description of the heart and the failure of words to express feelings. The poet calls the heart "a pilgrim upon earth", which suggests a lonely traveller moving through life in search of understanding. The poem also says that words are often of little worth and sometimes satisfy the least, showing that people cannot always express their emotions properly. This inability to communicate makes a person feel isolated and lonely.

V. How does the poet convey the superficial nature of words? What ought to be done to address this? In the poem "Words".

Ans. : The poet conveys the superficial nature of words by comparing them to weeds and empty air, suggesting that they are often shallow and ineffective. To address this, people should use words thoughtfully and sincerely, ensuring that their speech reflects genuine emotions and understanding.

