

# Bihar Board Class 12 English Book Solutions Poem 6

## The Soldier

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B. 1.1. Write T for true and F for false statements

- (a) The speaker of the poem is a soldier.
- (b) He is a French soldier.
- (c) The soldier is very sad.
- (d) He praises in England.
- (e) He talks about his friends.
- (f) It is a love poem.
- (g) The poet is depicting the miseries of war.
- (h) The poet expresses his indebtedness to England.
- (i) The poem is a sonnet

Answer:

(a) T, (b) F, (c) F, (d) T, (e) T, (f) F, (g) F, (h) T, (i) T.

B.1.2. Answer the following questions briefly

Question 1.

Is the speaker afraid of death?

Answer:

No, the speaker is not afraid of death. He would be given a corner of the foreign field.

Question 2.

If at all he dies in the battle, how would he like to be remembered?

Answer:

If at all he dies in the battle, he would like to be remembered as an unforgettable soldier who never feared death. He would be given flowers of love and buried in some corner of land which is part of England.

Question 3.

How can 'some corner of a foreign field' be "forever England?"

Answer:

His (poet's) grave will be in some corner of a foreign land. In that way, it will be "forever England".

Question 4.

"In that rich earth, a richer dust concealed". What does 'dost' stand for?

Answer:

In this sentence of the poem 'In that rich earth a richer dust concealed' for the mortals remains of the poet, after his death in the war-field. Dust also stands for those persons who avoid war and wanted to live a peaceful life. They never quarreled for anything.

Question 5.

What is meant by the phrase 'A pulse in the eternal mind'?

Answer:

The phrase 'A pulse in the eternal mind' indicates a long-cherished desire. The poet wants to say that there must be a pulse in the eternal mind that works to avoid war.

Long Answer Questions

Question 1.

Do you think that the title of the poem is appropriate? Give reasons.

Answer:

The title of the poem is quite appropriate and meaningful. It revolves around the central theme of the poem which moves about a patriotic soldier who is airing (expressing) his keen desire of martyrdom.

Question 2.

Discuss the main ideas contained in the first eight lines, i.e., octave.

Answer:

Poet is watching (observing) the death of a soldier which happens so often in a Warfield. Poet wants himself to be laid to rest in that foreign land where he attains martyrdom. This place is as much part of England as he himself is. Poet expresses his indebtedness to his motherland.

Question 3.

What do you understand by patriotism? Is this a patriotic poem? Discuss.

Answer:

Patriotism means love and emotions for the country. It is the spirit to do anything for the welfare and security of the country. It is, of course, an important factor indicating deep feelings for the motherland. It is also a great human character and a topmost point of all virtues. This is really a patriotic poem. Poet expresses his immense love and firm devotion towards England.

Question 5.

How many times does the poet use 'England' in the poem?

What does it show?

Answer:

In the poem, the poet has used England four times and English two times. It shows his great patriotic feeling, zeal and ultimate desire to sacrifice his life for his beloved country.

Question 6.

How can you show that you love your country'?

Answer:

I will be ready to sacrifice my life for the sake of my country, wherever required. I will maintain the honour of my motherland. I will also contribute to the prosperity of the country with the utmost enthusiasm.

Question 7.

What is a sonnet? Comment on the Language of the prescribed poem, Also mentions its rhyme scheme.

Answer:

A poem consisting of 14 lines is a "sonnet". The first eight lines are called octave and the last six lines are known as sestet. The octave establishes some issues and sestet resolves it. It is a concentrated expression of a single thought, feeling or situation, subjectivity, sincerity, melody, music, reflection, and spontaneity. These are some prominent characteristics and features of a sonnet. This poem, "The Soldier" is rhythmic. Its rhyme scheme is suitably and simultaneously arranged in a way pleasant to hear.

### C. 3. Composition

Write a short essay in about 100 words on the following:

(a) Life of a soldier.

Answer:

A soldier's life is full of hardship. He lives away from his home and family so that we may live in our home with our family. They give all sacrifice so that we and our country remain in peace and harmony. They lead a very tough life. They eat and drink almost anything they get in their way but it doesn't want them because of the strong patriotic feeling they have for their nation. They maintain a highly disciplined life. They prove to be a source of inspiration. That is why they get great respect all over the world.

(b) War widows.

Answer:

There is no war that has given a permanent solution. It causes loss and destruction of life and property for both the country involved in the war. It is truly said that war is quaint and curious. An unavoidable scene and the fact of wars are the war widows. Both sides lose many of their soldiers whose wives become widows. Well, even their life is of great respect in society. However, practically they suffer a lot. The government promises a lot but does not do as much as they should. But we should really see that they are respected and all their needs are fulfilled.

D. Word Study :

D.2. Word-formation

Read the following line carefully :

A body of England's, breathing English air, Mark the use of 'England' and 'English', in the line given above. Write adjectives showing nationality, against the names of the countries given below:

Pakistan, America, Japan, Nepal, Australia, Newzealand, West Indies, Korea, China, Iran

Answer:

Pakistan — Pakistani

America — American

Japan — Japanese

Nepal — Nepali

Australia — Australian

Newzealand — Newzealandian

West Indies — West Indian

Korea — Korean

China — Chinese

Iran — Irani

Ex. 1. Write the antonyms of the words given below:

die, foreign, roam, evil, eternal, gentleness, peace, heaven, aware, concealed

Answer:

die — birth

foreign — domestic

roam — still

evil — good

eternal — internal

gentleness — gentleful

peace — peaceless

heaven — hell

aware — ignore

concealed—revealed

E. Grammar

Ex. 1. Read the following lines from the poem carefully:

(i) If I should die, think only of this me.

(ii) There shall be.....

Can, could, may, might, must, shall, should, will, would – these are modals. They have different meanings in different situations. In the first sentence given above, 'should' suggest a condition or probability. Similarly, shall in the second sentence suggests 'future time'.

Fill in the blanks with suitable modals to complete the sentences:

- (i) Amod..... complete his homework in an hour, (ability)
- (ii) Students..... remain in the discipline during the period, (compulsion)
- (iii)..... you succeed in life, (wish)
- (iv) It..... rain today, (possibility)
- (v) What..... I do in this uncommon situation! (advice)
- (vi) You..... to take proper care of your old parents, (moral duty)
- (vii)If Chhabi had participated in the dance competition, she..... has won the admiration of the audience, (a possibility that did not realise)
- (viii) In evening..... they go out for a walk, (habit)
- (ix)..... you, please, bring a cup of tea for me? (polite request)
- (x) Safdar..... be in Delhi in the first week of January, (future time)

Answer:

- (i) can (ii) must (iii) must (iv) may (v) should (vi) ought (vii) might (viii) used to (ix) will (x) will.