

# CLASS IX POEM 8 ON KILLING A TREE (NCERT)

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## THINKING ABOUT THE POEM (PAGE 111)

**I. QUESTION 1.** Can a “simple jab of the knife” kill a tree? Why not?

**ANSWER:** No, a simple jab of knife does not have the ability to kill the tree. It has to go through various processes. If its root is not removed from the earth, it will sprout again.



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**CONNECTED TO EARTH**

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**QUESTION 2.** How has the tree grown to its full size? List the words suggestive of its life and activity.

**ANSWER:** The tree consumes the earth, and rises out it feeding upon its crust. It absorbs years of sunlight, air and water.





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## 1<sup>ST</sup> STANZA

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**IT TAKES MUCH TIME TO KILL A TREE,  
NOT A SIMPLE JAB OF THE KNIFE  
WILL DO IT. IT HAS GROWN  
SLOWLY CONSUMING THE EARTH,  
RISING OUT OF IT, FEEDING  
UPON ITS CRUST, ABSORBING  
YEARS OF SUNLIGHT, AIR, WATER,  
AND OUT OF ITS LEPROUS HIDE  
SPROUTING LEAVES.**



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**QUESTION 3.** What is the meaning of “bleeding bark”? What makes it bleed?

**ANSWER:** ‘Bleeding bark’ means the twigs which are cut mercilessly. They leave a liquid substance. If any part of the human body is cut, it starts bleeding. In the same way the liquid substance comes out from the branch of a tree. The human beings’ axe makes it bleed.

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**TREE SAP IS RELATED TO THE BLOOD**



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**QUESTION 4.** The poet says “No” in the beginning of the third stanza. What does he mean by this?

**ANSWER:** ‘No’ is used to emphasize the perspective that chopping or hacking will not be sufficient for killing a tree.

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### 3<sup>RD</sup> STANZA

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**NO,  
THE ROOT IS TO BE PULLED OUT —  
OUT OF THE ANCHORING EARTH;  
IT IS TO BE ROPED, TIED,  
AND PULLED OUT—SNAPPED OUT  
OR PULLED OUT ENTIRELY,  
OUT FROM THE EARTH—CAVE,  
AND THE STRENGTH OF THE TREE EXPOSED  
THE SOURCE, WHITE AND WET,  
THE MOST SENSITIVE, HIDDEN  
FOR YEARS INSIDE THE EARTH.**



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**QUESTION 5.** What is the meaning of “anchoring earth” and “earth cave”?

**ANSWER:** It means that the earth protects it like a mother. ‘Earth Cave’ implies a hole inside it. The tree allows its roots to spread underneath. The earth protects it and fosters it. It provides all the essential ingredients to the tree.