

Roadside Stand || Important Questions || Class 12

English Flamingo Poem 5 ||

Short Answer Type Questions

Qes1. Why do the people who run the roadside stand wait for the squeal of brakes so eagerly?

Ans. The “squealing of brakes” means that a car has stopped at their roadside stand. It raises their hopes that the city-folk have stopped there to buy something from their roadside stand and some city money will come into their hands.

Qes2. Why does Robert Frost sympathise with the rural poor?

Ans. Robert Frost feels an unbearable agony at the plight of the rural poor who are ignored and neglected by the rich politicians. The Government and the party in power are indifferent to their welfare. They fool them by making false promises and then fully exploit them to suit their own selfish interests.

Qes3. What was the plea of the folk who had put up the roadside stand?

Ans. The folk who had put up the roadside stand pleaded to the city dwellers to stop and buy their wares so as to enable them to earn some extra money for a decent living. They wanted that the rich people who passed from there in their cars should stop there and buy some goods from them. The money that these folks would earn from the rich people would help them to lead a better life.

Qes4. What is the ‘childish longing’ of the folk who had put up the roadside stand? Why is it ‘in vain’?

Ans. The ‘childish longing’, the poet refers to, is the dreams and desires of the rural folk who have a child-like longing for a better life that they hope to live with the help from the city dwellers. Their longing is in vain because the city folk are not willing to help them and so their ‘childish longings’ are not likely to be fulfilled.

Qes5. Why didn’t the ‘polished traffic’ stop at the roadside stand?

Ans. The ‘polished traffic’ conveniently overlook the roadside stand and do not stop there as their mind is focussed only on their destination. Moreover, they were critical of the poor decor of the stand, its artless interior and paint.

Qes6. What news in the poem ‘A Roadside Stand’ is making its round in the village?

Ans. The news making its round is about the resettlement of the poor, rural people who will be resettled in the villages, next to the theatre and the store. They would be close to the cities and will not have to worry about themselves any more.

Ans. The rural people running the roadside stand are poor and deprived, unlike the people of the city. They thus ask for city money so that they too can lead a life of happiness and prosperity. This much-needed city money can give them the life that had been promised to them by the party in power.

Qes8. What does Frost himself feel about the roadside stand?

Ans. The poet is distressed to see the interminable wait on the part of the shed owners for their prospective buyers. He is agonised at the 'childish longing in vain' of the people who have put up the roadside stand.