

The Village School Master

- Oliver Goldsmith

Theme: - The poem "The Village Schoolmaster" by Oliver Goldsmith is an extract from his famous poem The Deserted Village. The word "village" in the title clearly suggests that the poem is set in a rural area, probably where the speaker lived. The poem portrays a realistic picture and the speaker's sentiments about a teacher. Though the poem presents the pleasant remembrances of the poet about the schoolmaster, the poem ends with amazement of the villagers for the master.

I. Explain with Reference to Context: -

1. Besides yon.... taught his little school (First stanza)

a. Who does 'his' refer to?

Ans) here his refers to the village school master

b. Give the meaning of 'yon'.

Ans) 'yon' means 'that'

c. Identify the figure of speech in the 3-rd. line

Ans) the figure of speech in the 3rd line is simile

d. Explain the above lines in your own words.

Ans) the above line describes the surrounding of the school which is surrounded by a fence on the edge and the road the school entrance is covered with cherry blossom flowers which is left unappreciated. The school master is not the king or principal of the school, but he is skilled enough to maintain discipline.

2. Full well they laughed ...when he frowned (Third stanza)

a. Who does 'they' refer to?

Ans) here they refer to the students

b. What is Counterfeited glee?

Ans) Pretentious laughter

b. Use the word 'counterfeit' in your own sentence.

Ans) The bags are popular with teens and adults alike and are often counterfeited.

c. What does the word 'whisper' signify in this context?

Ans) the word whisper here means that spreading the word or news around the area or room within a short period of time.

d. Did the students enjoy the jokes shared by the village Schoolmaster? Justify your answer

Ans) no, the students did not enjoy the jokes cracked by the village school master because the jokes were never funny. They'd only laugh so that they would not get punished by the school master.

II. Answer the following (20-30 words)

1. What does 'unprofitably gay' mean?

Flowers have bloomed beautifully but No one to admire or appreciate its beauty

b. What did the students learn by merely gazing at the master's face?

Ans) the students got to know the mood of the school master just by gazing at the school master's face.

III. Answer the following (30-40 words)

1. Write the character sketch of the Village School Master. Give both his qualities and abilities

Ans; - Qualities - strict, stern, kind-hearted, wise witty

Abilities – disciplinarian, jolly, could predict, estimate, and win a argument

2. Describe the school master from the villagers' perspective.

Ans) the villagers thought the school master to be a very smart person who can calculate, predict whether and even win an argument. Even if he was not able to win a argument, he would never stop arguing. The villagers always wondered how a person can carry so much knowledge in his head.

IV Think about a teacher who has taught you and has been instrumental in your growth or impressed you the most (word limit -100 words)