

St. Andrews Scots Sr. Sec. School

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Session: 2025-2026- Notes

Class: X

Subject: English

Topic: Poem- The Frog and The Nightingale

Answer the following questions briefly :

Q1. Which are the different ways in which the frog asserts his importance?

Ans. The frog asserts his importance in many ways. First of all, he calls himself the owner of the tree declaring that he is not only known for his 'splendid baritone' but for his compositions too. He offers a critique of the nightingale's song and makes her believe that she should receive musical training from him, and the nightingale is so humble that she admits that he is no less than Mozart. He offers to train her for an amount that the nightingale couldn't afford to pay until her death.

Q2. Why is the frog's joy both sweet and bitter?

Ans. The frog has mixed feelings of happiness and bitterness. He is happy because he is earning money with the performances of the nightingale as he charges everyone whosoever comes to listen to her melodies. He experiences bitterness because the bird is receiving attention and he is being ignored and sidelined by the creatures of the bog.

Q3. Why did other creatures of the bog loathe the frog's voice? How did they express their disapproval of the frog?

Ans. Other creatures of the bog loathed the frog's voice because he croaked in an unpleasant harsh voice from day to night. Finding no choice they had to bear the torture. They expressed their disapproval of the frog in many ways. Some threw stones and sticks at him, others requested him to stop blaring, while there were still many who insulted, lodged complaints and threw bricks at him. But nothing stops the frog from displaying his heart's elation.

Q4. The frog considers the nightingale stupid and brainless. Do you agree with the statement? Support your answer with reasons.

Ans. Though the frog called the nightingale a stupid and brainless creature, a sensitive being cannot do so because the nightingale was simple not stupid. She lacked the clever ways of the world and was ignorant enough to see through the sly plans of the frog. But referring her to be a brainless creature would be an exaggeration. Everyone wants to be successful. If the nightingale had dreamt to be so, she was not stupid. It was because of her timid, meek and gullible nature that the frog could call her brainless and stupid.

Q5. Why did the frog criticise the poor bird harshly? What effect did it have on her?

Ans. The frog criticised the poor nightingale harshly because he was jealous of the bird's ability to sing. Everyone admired her singing, while they loathed his voice. Even though he was earning money from the shows that the nightingale gave, his joy at this wealth was bitter when he saw the nightingale's success. The frog's criticism made the nightingale sorrowful and pale. She no longer took pleasure in singing, and her efforts to please the frog made her voice tired and uninspired. At last, she puffed up, burst a vein and died.



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Answer the following questions in detail:

Q1. Bring out the irony in the frog's statement-'Your song must be your own'.

Ans. The statement-'Your song must be your own'- is ironic in nature as throughout the poem the frog coaxes the nightingale to sing like him. The poor nightingale is scolded by the frog when he says 'you must practice even longer, till your voice like mine grows stronger'. The nightingale tries her best but could not sing as expected by the frog. She ultimately bursts a vein and finally dies. Every creature is born with individual differences. Talents differ; all are wisely put. How could a tender creature sing with the harshness of a frog?

The gullible nightingale couldn't understand this. And when the nightingale dies, the frog immediately changes his statement that she should have known that 'your song must be your own'. Therefore, this statement is ironic in nature as it proved detrimental in claiming the life of the nightingale and turning the fortune of the frog that makes him the unrivalled king of the bog.

Q2. What was the purpose of the poet to end the poem in this manner? Can you suggest a different ending?

Ans. The poet has ended the poem in this manner as he wishes to make a point. It is a lesson to all those who are impressionable and under the influence of others, especially those who are strangers. The nightingale commits this mistake and pays the penalty for it. As soon as the frog discovers the weak and humble nature of the nightingale, he tries to lower her self-esteem by saying that she needs improvement in singing. And the naive and credulous nightingale falls into his trap to never come out of it. Her sad end leaves a message that if one wants to succeed, one must have self-confidence in one's abilities even if the other is exceptionally talented. Alternately, the nightingale could have been portrayed as a strong and confident bird, who does not fall into the frog's trap, and replaces the frog as the undisputed musician of the bog. This would have conveyed a positive message to the readers who are gullible and succumb to external pressures.

Q3. Imagine you are the frog. You are extremely happy to again become the unrivalled king of the bog. Write a letter to one of your friends sharing with him/her your tale of success.

Ans.

Sumac tree

Bingle Bog

1 May 2025

Dear friend

It's been over a month since we wrote to each other. Actually I was busy saving my lost image of an established musician. It happened so, that a nightingale flew by chance and perched on the sumac tree. And as she started singing, every creature of the bog became interested in her song that they applauded her and requested her to sing some more. This was totally opposite from the treatment that I received. You know that they used to throw stones and bricks on me whenever I sang. So I decided to eliminate her.



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I knew that she was very simple, innocent and meek. I made use of her lack of worldly wisdom and used my patronizing ways to impress her. I was successful as she took me to be her trainer. And then I showed my true colours. I knew that she was a tender creature. I made her practice day and night so mercilessly that I did not even allow her to sleep. Even when it rained I told her to practice. I benefitted doubly from her as I sold her songs and earned a good amount of money too.

Very soon when she lost interest in singing, I scolded, insulted and reprimanded her to such an extent that she lost control over her senses and died in an attempt to sing with passion. I don't repent her death at all. On the other hand, I would regard her foolish and brainless who was trying to learn my song. How could she have done that? Well now things are back to order and I am again the unrivalled singer of the bog.

Your friend

Frog

Q4. The frog, who was not at all talented, ruled in the end and the nightingale, who possessed the fineness and versatility of voice, died. Explain the irony of the statement, highlighting the values the frog should have possessed.

Ans. The frog who was not at all talented, ruled in the end by dint of his cunningness and wickedness. He was jealous of the nightingale and hatched a plot to get rid of her. He was dismissive and condescending and treated the nightingale as a stupid creature. The irony in the statement is that the frog was the one who tried to teach the nightingale to sing differently. He did not let her song to be her own. On the other hand, the nightingale was a meek and submissive creature who lacked confidence. Her gullibility and credulity made her an easy prey to the cunningness of the frog. Despite having the fineness and versatility of her voice, the nightingale met a fitting end as she was truly brainless. The frog philosophised that one's song must be one's own. One should realise their self worth and should not think low of oneself.



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