

St. Andrews Scots Sr. Sec. School

9th Avenue, I.P. Extension, Patparganj, Delhi – 110092

Session: 2025-2026 Notes

Class : X

Subject : English

Poem- The Snake

Answer the following questions

Q1. Why does the poet experience conflicting emotions on seeing the snake?

Ans. The poet experienced conflicting emotions because his head (education), and his heart (sensibilities) gave him different suggestions and opinions on how to handle the snake. His heart did not want to listen to his mind that told him to kill the snake, if he were a man.

Q2. Why did DH Lawrence, the poet, despise himself? How did he feel and describe his action?

Ans. He despised himself for throwing a log at the snake. He felt extremely disgusted when he He hated himself and the education that had told him that snakes are harmful and must saw the snake escaping in a hurry. He regretted his paltry, vulgar and mean behaviour. be killed. He felt his action was responsible for depriving him of the opportunity of honouring a king.

Q3. "Man is the most selfish animal on this earth, who has not spared any other species to satisfy his greed." Elaborate.

Ans. Everything that grows, lives, breathes and procreates, falls under the category of living beings. God created all living beings. The only difference between man and other living things is that man has been endowed with the power of reasoning, while the other living beings are guided by their instinct.

Now, what did man do with his power of reasoning? He started using it unreasonably. Animals kill only when they are hungry. But man kills to eat, for fun, for power, as a sport, and in the name of religion. He just needs to hit upon a reason to be inhuman and unreasonable. Man has destroyed the earth given to us by God. He has destroyed the ecological balance, by killing animals and birds and chopping down trees. All this to satiate his greed for wealth and power. For man the adage, "Live and let live" is not for him to practise. Allowing another being to stand up against him will be a definite clash of his ego, which he will not allow even if it means that he has to kill.



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