

St. Andrews Scots Sr. Sec. School

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Session: 2026-27- Notes

Class: X

Subject: English

Topic: 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 asserted his importance in several ways. He boasted of his own musical ability, claimed to be a critic and a reporter for Bog 'Trumpet', offered to train the nightingale for a fee, acted patronisingly towards her, and gave orders so that he appeared to be the centre of musical activity in the bog.

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

Ans: The frog's joy was sweet because he earned money by managing the nightingale and benefitted financially from her performances. It was bitter because her growing popularity threatened his position; he felt jealous that she might attract more attention than he did.

Q3. How did the frog become the unrivalled king of the bog again?

Ans: The frog regained his position by insulting and humiliating the nightingale and by forcing her to practise excessively, even in bad weather. He demanded difficult exercises and harsh performances; the strain caused her to collapse and die when a vein burst from overexertion. With the nightingale gone, the animals had no rival performer and the frog once again dominated the bog.

Q4. Bring out the irony in the frog's statement-'Your song must be your own'.

Ans: The supreme irony lies in the fact that the frog spends the entire poem systematically destroying the nightingale's originality, only to claim its importance after she is dead. Initially, when the nightingale modestly says, "at least it's mine," the frog dismisses her by saying that is "not much to boast about" and insists she needs his "proper training" to succeed. He forces her to adopt his "technique," follow "fashion," and add "trills" and "frills" to please the public, effectively making her song a product of his greed. After his exploitation leads to her death, he hypocritically adopts her initial sentiment as his own philosophy to maintain his status as the "unrivalled" singer of the bog.

Q5. Do you think the nightingale is 'brainless'? Give reasons for your answer.

Ans: The nightingale is not "brainless" in terms of intelligence, but she is dangerously lacking in self-assurance and worldly wisdom. Her "downfall" is caused by her extreme naivety as she is so "flattered and impressed" by the frog's self-proclaimed status as a critic that she fails to see his obvious lack of talent. She has lack of self-worth. Despite the "whole admiring bog" cheering for her, she still asks the frog, "Did you like my song?" seeking validation from a single critic over a delighted audience. She has blind trust. She views the manipulative frog as "Mozart in disguise," ignoring her own physical exhaustion and the frog's "mercenary" nature.



Q6. How did the frog satisfy his greed through the nightingale's song ?

Ans. Frog was a very clever and cunning creature. He was jealous of the growing popularity of nightingale among other creatures of the bog. So, he criticized her song suggesting her to take vocal training from him to achieve perfection and for this he took a fee from her and also kept the ticket money from her concerts. This is how the frog satisfied his greed through the nightingale's song.

Q7. "That your song must be your own." Write the significance of the statement said by the frog in 'The Frog and the Nightingale'.

Ans. It is said that one should sing one's own song. Had it been the case with the nightingale in the poem 'The Frog and the Nightingale', she would not have been killed.

She was timid and lacked self-confidence. That was why she invited the frog's comments about her song of the last night. This was the chance when the frog could trap her. He offered to impart her training for proper singing. Being innocent she could not suspect the frog's evil designs of killing her by making her sing continuously and even in bad weather that too without proper rest. The frog exploited her and over exerted her. She obeyed his commands innocently and did not think that her song was better than his.

Ultimately, the frog succeeded in killing her and criticized her as a stupid creature who was nervous, tense and prone to influence and said that she should have thought that her song must be her own.

