

St. Andrews Scots Sr. Sec. School

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

Session: 2023-2024 - Notes

Class:IX

Subject:English

Topic: Beehive: The Lake Isle of Innisfree

Answer these questions-

Q1) Do you think Innisfree is only a place, or a state of mind? Does the poet actually miss the place of his boyhood days?

Ans. I think it is a state of mind. We tend to fantasise or go back in time when we are sad or feel frustrated from the present situation or condition. It all depends on what the poet considers an ideal place. Sound is heard in the city as well as in the countryside but the question arises which sounds give us more pleasure and when. Yes, he misses the place of his boyhood days and recalls the sound of the lake washing its shore all day long in his heart's core. He misses the sounds of the crickets chirping in the woods and the sight of the linnets flying homewards in the evening sky. He misses the unveiling of the mist by the rising sun. He misses the midday sun enliven the island lake with its light and the midnights all a glimmer. Indeed, this is the ultimate dream of every human being to settle in the quiet nature, far away from the bustle of the city.

Q2) What does the poet plan to do when he reaches the isle?

Ans. The poet intends to build a small cottage of clay and wattle, and live all by himself near the glade where the bees buzz around in their hive. He also plans to plant nine rows of beans.

Q3) What is the poet trying to convey when he is referring to the bees, birds, crickets, and the waves?

Ans. The poet is referring to the continuous activities that goes on in the countryside. All the creations of nature are busy in their activities, but despite all this, they unknowingly provide peace and solace to man. On the other hand, in the city, infested by human beings, man does not provide the tranquility that the other creations of nature provide, and they do so without expectations of any form of remuneration.

Q4) How does the poet describe the lake's waves?

Ans. The poet says that the lake's waves hit its shore and create a low sound. The sound, different from the sounds of the city, gives him great pleasure. He hears it in his heart and enjoys it. It also gives him solace and comfort as he realises he can visualise the island in his heart in the city.

Q5. Describe the island the poet would like to go to.

Or

What is it about the 'Lake Isle of Innisfree' that appealed to the poet ?

Ans. The lake isle of Innisfree has been untouched by urbanisation. It is peaceful as the poet equates peace with nature. He would like to wake up in the morning, hearing the chirping of the crickets from the woods, after the mist/fog is slowly lifted by the rising sun. The rich purple colour that glows from the heather as the afternoon sun caresses it. Also the feeling of royalty as one luxuriates in the countryside. The beautiful sight of the linnets flying in large flocks in the evening sky and the night sky alight with the twinkling stars is a sight to behold. There is the constant rhythm of the waves as they strike the shores of the isle.