

QUESTION BANK – ENGLISH

Poem- 2 Mirror

**Reference to Context Questions**

A) Whatever I see I swallow immediately

Just as it is, unmisted by love and dislike.

I am not cruel, only truthful-

The eye of a little god.

- (i) What does the mirror mean by saying, 'I am not cruel'?
- (ii) What does 'the eye of little god' in the above line suggest?
- (iii) What does the word 'swallow' mean here?
- (iv) Do you agree that mirror is unbiased? How?

B) I have looked at it so long

I think it is a part of my heart. But it flickers.

Faces and darkness separate us over and over.

- (i) Where did the mirror look for so long?
- (ii) What does the word 'flicker' mean? Why does the mirror flicker?
- (iii) What does the pronoun 'us' refer to?
- (iv) What is the poetic device in the above lines?

C) Then she turns to those liars, the candles or the moon.

I see her back and reflect it faithfully.

She rewards me with tears and agitation of hands

- (i) What does the phrase 'those liars' mean?
- (ii) Why does she turn to those liars?

(iii) What does the phrase 'agitation of hands' mean here?

(iv) Why does 'she' reward the mirror with tears?

**Short answer questions:**

Q 1. Who are the liars in the poem 'The Mirror'? Why does the woman turn to those liars?

Q 2. The poem 'The Mirror' is replete with examples of personification. Recollect the poem to analyse how the poet makes use of the literary device in the poem

Q 3. What is the theme of the poem 'The Mirror'? On what basic tone does the poem progress?

Q 4. What is the poetic device used when the mirror says 'I swallow'?

Q 5. How is the mirror rewarded for being faithful and impartial?

Q 6. Who is responsible for the woman's pain- the mirror or the woman herself? Explain.

Q 7. What do you think the 'terrible fish' in the last line symbolises? What is the poetic device used here?

Q 8. What makes the woman start crying?.

Q9. Why has the mirror described itself as having no pre-conceptions?

Q10. What is the significance of "swallowing images"?

Q11. How does the mirror convey the idea of being truthful and not cruel?

Q12. How far the mirror calling itself the "eye of the little god" justified?

Q13. Why has the opposite wall been referred to? What is the significance of its description?

Q14. What makes the woman bend over the river? What does she wish to achieve?

Q15. What do the liars signify? Who are they?

Q16. Is the woman happy with her false image? Why/Why not?

Q17. Is reality "biting"? If yes, Then why the "reward "is mentioned?

Q18. Why does the mirror turn to the mirror everyday despite the grief she goes through?

Q19. How does the mirror use the comparison of the lake to show that youth doesn't last forever?

**Long answer and value based questions:**

1. "Living in the world of illusions, we need to change our attitude and learn to face and accept reality without indulging in self-pity.' explain this statement with reference to the 'Mirror'.

2. "A mirror is very important to women." How is it important to them and what values do you learn from a mirror?

3. Do you agree that mirror is like a god and a lake? Justify your answer.

4. Though the mirror claims 'I am not cruel' it gives a lot of pain to the woman. Is its claim justified? Why do you think so?

Q 5. Mirror is a satire on human prejudices and preconceptions. Discuss.

Q 6. "There is nothing as agonising to the fine skin of vanity as the application of a rough truth." How is this illustrated in the poem 'Mirror'?

Or

Q 7. It is often very difficult and painful to come to terms with reality. How is this illustrated in the poem 'Mirror'?

Q 8. Beauty is not just about having a pretty face. It is about having a pretty mind, a pretty heart and a pretty soul. Discuss if reference to the poem 'Mirror'.

Q 9. Does the 'mirror' portray a pessimistic view of life? Discuss if reference to the poem 'Mirror'

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