

Poem – 6 – Snake

Short Answer Type:-

1. What was the poet's reaction when he saw the snake at the water-trough?
2. Why did the poet have to wait near the water trough?
3. Why did the poet allow the snake to finish drinking water?
4. What is very special about the poet that makes him think that he was a second comer? What was his world view?
5. What does the poet compare the snakes drinking habits to? Why?
6. Why does the poet compare the snake to drinking cattle?
7. What picture of the snake do you form on the basis of the poem?
8. How does the poet call the snake? What does this imply about the poet?
9. The poet refers to the snake as 'someone' not 'it'. Why does he do so?
10. Why did the narrator want to hit the snake?

Long Answer Type (Value Based):-

1. Keeping in mind the poem, snake, write out a speech for the morning assembly on the topic 'Snake'- a beautiful creation of the God, an object of our love not the hatred.
2. What is the poet's dual attitude towards the snake?
3. The poet talks to us indirectly about his inner voice and the need for man to forget age old prejudices and love nature's creations like the snake?
4. Why does the poet experience feelings of self-derision, guilt and regret after throwing a log at the snake?

Extract Based:-

1. "And flickered his two-forked tongue
from his lips. and mused a moment,
and stooped and drank a little more,"

(a) Whose 'lips' and 'tongue' are referred to here?

(b) What was he doing?

(c) give the meaning of 'mused'?

2. "Someone was before me at my water tough,
And I, like a second comer, waiting."

(a) Who was at the water tough before the poet?

(b) Where had he come from?

(c) What do you mean by 'tough'?

(d) Which figure of speech is used in the second line?

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