

# The Lake Isle of Innisfree (Poem)

## Extract Based Questions (3 marks each)

Read the extract given below and answer the question that follow:

Q. 1. And I shall have some peace there, for peace comes dropping slow  
Dropping from the veils of the morning to where the cricket sings;

(i) What does the word 'there' in the above lines refer to ?

(ii) How does peace enter the huts of peasants ?

(iii) Name the literary device used in the poem. (SA-1,2014)

Ans. (i) 'There' in the above lines refer to Lake Isle of Innisfree.

(ii) Peace enters the huts of peasants through the morning dew drops.

(iii) Metaphor.

Q.2. While I stand on the roadway, or on the pavements grey,

I hear it in the deep heart's core.

(i) Name the poem and the poet.

(ii) What does "It" in the second line stand for ?

(iii) Give the noun form of the word "deep." (Board Term 1,2013, K2G41GH) (1×3=3)

Ans. (i) Poem : The Lake Isle of Innisfree.

Poet: W.B. Yeats.

(ii) "It" refers to the lake water.

(iii) Deepness / Depth.

Q.3. And I shall have some peace there, for peace comes dropping slow  
Dropping from the veils of the morning to where the Cricket sings;

There midnight's all a glimmer and noon a purple glow

And evenings full of the linnet's wings.

(i) What did the poet see in the morning ?

(ii) What did the poet hear ?

(iii) Find a word from the extract which means "weak, faint, unsteady light."

(Board Term 1,2012, ELI-014) (1×3=3)

Ans. (i) The poet saw dewdrops which seemed to be dropping peace.

(ii) The poet heard the song of the crickets.

(iii) Glimmer.

Q.4. And I shall have some peace there, for peace comes dropping slow  
Dropping from the veils of the morning to where the cricket sings;

There midnight's all a glimmer, and noon a purple glow,  
And evenings full of the linnet's wings.

(i) Write the rhyming scheme of the given stanza.

(ii) What does the stanza suggest about the poet? ~

(iii) Name any two things the poet is fond of. (Board Term 1,2012, ELI-016) (1×3=3)

Ans. (i) abab.

(ii) The stanza suggests that the poet loves to be in the lap of nature.

(iii) Cricket's song, the evening when linnets are flying, a bright moon lit midnight.

Q.5. I will arise and go now, and go to Innisfree,  
And a small cabin build there, of clay and wattles made.  
Nine bean rows will I have there, a hive for the honeybee,  
And I live alone in the bee-loud glade. '

(i) What does the poet wish to build at Innisfree?

(ii) What does "Innisfree" symbolise?

(iii) Why does the poet wish to stay at Innisfree? (Board Term 1,2012, ELI-021) (1×3=3)

Ans. (i) The poet wishes to build a small cabin at Innisfree to be made with sticks and clay.

(ii) Innisfree symbolises a place of peace and tranquility.

(iii) The poet wishes to stay at Innisfree:

(a) To live in peaceful environment; and

(b) To escape from hectic schedule-of the city life.

Q.6. I will arise and go now, and go to Innisfree,  
And a small cabin build there, of clay and wattles made:  
Nine bean-rows will I have there, a hive for the honeybee,  
And live alone in the bee-loud glade.

(i) Write about any two things the poet wants to do when he goes back to Innisfree.

(ii) Why does the poet miss the place?

(iii) Trace a word from the extract that means "open space".

Ans. (i) Two things that the poet wants to do when he goes back to Innisfree are:

(a) Build a small cabin of clay and wattles.

(b) Have nine bean rows and a hive for honeybee.

(c) Live alone in the bee-loud glade. (Any two)

(ii) The poet misses the place because he longs for the peace and tranquility of Innisfree, a place

where he spent a lot of time as a boy.

(iii) Glade.

Q. 7. "And I shall have some peace there, for peace comes dropping slow – Dropping from the veils of the morning to where the cricket sings"

(i) Name the poet.

(ii) Which place is the poet referring to in the above lines?

(iii) What is the poet looking for? (Board Term 1,2012, ELI-058) (1×3=3)

Ans. (i) The poet is W. B. Yeats.

(ii) The place which the poet is referring to in the above lines is the Lake Isle of Innisfree.

(iii) The poet is looking for peace and serenity.

## **Short Answer Type Questions (2 marks each) (About 30-40 words each)**

Q.1. Describe the person, the place or the thing brought vividly to life by the poet.

Ans. The Lake Isle of Innisfree by W. B. Yeats vividly describes an island in the lake of Innisfree.

The island is an incredibly peaceful place. The island is also a place of great natural beauty. Yeats describes many different aspects of its appeal, from the various birds and insects to the striking light at different times of day. This is a landscape that has not been damaged or diminished by human interference.

**Q.2. Why does the poet want to go to Innisfree ?**

**Ans.** The poet wants to go to Innisfree in search of peace. He does not like the noisy place as London is. He wants to live in a place which. The poet craves for some peace and hence he wants to go to Innisfree. There he wants to make a small cabin and grow beans. He wants to live there alone.

**Q.3. How is the city life different from the life at the Lake of Innisfree ?**

**Ans.** The poet does not like the city life. The pavements are dull and grey. There is chaos all around. But there is nature's beauty all around in Innisfree. It is a dream place for the poet which exists in reality. There is a perfect harmony on the island between the plants and the weather.

**Q. 4. Briefly describe one major theme of the poem "The Lake Isle of Innisfree".**

**Ans.** A major theme in "The Lake Isle of Innisfree", is nature versus civilization. What we value in life is often the exact opposite of what civilization brings with it. Nature allows us to explore the various forms of life but civilization has certain set rules with which we have to abide.

**Q. 5. What is the tone of the poem ?**

**Ans.** The poem has a very calm and relaxing tone. The reader may picture a person physically going to this place called Innisfree but the narrator of the poem is visiting this place in his imagination. It helps him to relax and escape the rush of modern living.

## **Long Answer Type Questions (4 marks each) (About 80-100 words each)**

**Q. 1. In the poem 'The Lake Isle of Innisfree', what does the poet find so attractive about 'The Lake Isle of Innisfree'.**

**Ans.** The thing that the poet finds so attractive about Lake Isle of Innisfree is its promise of peace.

The poet, then, long for this place which affords a sense of contentment and relaxation far from the busy modern life. The poem's slow and regular meter helps to convey this languid, dreamy effect. There is also the vivid impressionistic description of the colours and beauties of this place, and the soothing stir of nature which is so different from the strident noise of the city where the poet actually is, as the final stanza makes clear.

The poet, then, is physically trapped in the city, but he can imagine the beauty of Innisfree and this gives him spiritual sustenance. This is one of Yeats's early lyrics, exhibiting a familiar romantic sensibility in its praise of the deep purity and beauty of nature which is contrasted with the drabness, shallowness and sterility of modern urban living.

**Q.2. In your opinion, what words or phrases used by the poet are the most effective in bringing the person, place or thing to life? Give reasons for your answer.**

**Ans.** Throughout the poem, Yeats uses a variety of imaginative phrases to capture the essence of the lake

Isle. He brings the island to life by referring to the different birds and insects there. He comments on how "the cricket sings" and refers to "linnet's wings". This gives a sense of energy on the island, and reminds us of what a natural place it is.

The line "and live alone in the bee-loud glade" correctly captures the point that Yeats is trying

to make about the island. It is an isolated place, where he can enjoy the solitude.

In the second stanza of the poem, Yeats describes how the light changes on the island throughout the day. He tells us that "noon's a purple glow". This light brings the entire lake Isle to life.

Finally, Yeats manages to capture the sounds of the island. He tells us that he can hear "water lapping in low sounds by the shore". Yeats uses alliteration to recreate the sounds. By repeating the letter "l" so many times, we get a sense of the slow and gentle movement of the water.

**Q. 3. Does the poem celebrate the theme of escapism ? Explain.**

**Ans.** The poem focuses on Innisfree as a place of escape for the speaker. The speaker describes Innisfree as a simple, natural environment where he will build a cabin and live alone. 'The Lake Isle of Innisfree' expresses the idea that nature provides an inherently restorative place to which human beings can go to escape the chaos and corrupting influences of civilization. In this poem, the speaker/Yeats longs to live in the simplicity of nature, with no extraneous distractions of city life or the superfluous habits, customs, and daily routines of an increasingly fast-paced, modern world. The speaker is only dreaming of "getting away from it all." Even if he never goes, he will at least have the mental escape. This is the saving grace; even if he can not get out of the city, he can imagine the escape as he can will himself to hear the lake water lapping even while standing on the pavement in the city. There is another appeal/implication that one can never go back to the past place of nostalgia and youth, but through imagination and reflection, one can always have the mental escape and memory of another time and place.

Vidya Champ