



**INDIAN SCHOOL DARSAIT
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH**



Subject : English Lesson : A Thing of Beauty

Date of Worksheet : August 2019

Name of the Student : _____

Date: _____

Class & Div : XII

Roll Number :

Summary

- The Poet, John Keats says that beautiful things will never become ‘nothing’ as they will continue to hold us in their spell and soothe our soul.
- Every beautiful thing is like a band that ties us to this earth as it makes us want to live and enjoy these things of beauty.
- And these things of beauty, according to the poet, are the things that give hope to human beings and make them want to live, in spite of all the sorrow, ill-health and unpleasant experiences that we face on earth.
- Some of the beautiful things on this earth that have such an effect on us are the Sun, the Moon, trees, streams, flowers, forests, all the lovely tales of the mighty dead that we have heard or read.
- Finally he compares all these beautiful things to the immortal drink (of perenniality) or nectar given to us by God or gifts of God. Thus he states his firm belief in the Divine.

I Read the extract and answer the questions that follow:

1. *“yes, in spite of all,*

Some shape of beauty moves away the pall

From our dark spirits. Such the sun, the moon.... daffodils”

a. What does ‘in spite of all’ refer to?

The expression refers to all the pessimistic and negative thoughts that obstruct our way to happiness. In spite of the sense of hopelessness and gloom that overshadow and darken our way, we are able to find happiness in the beautiful objects of nature.

b. What, according to the poet, drives away the sadness from our life?

Beauty, in shape or form, helps in driving away the sadness and despair from the dark recesses of our spirit.

c. What does the reference ‘simple sheep’ symbolize?

Lambs and sheep are envisioned as the embodiments of innocent and serene beauty. Jesus Christ, as an apostle of peace, was a shepherd and was seen surrounded by his flock of sheep, his followers. The poet has made specific reference to the sheep as symbols of ‘divine beauty’.

d. What moves away the pall from our dark spirits?

Nature’s beauty moves away the pall from our dark spirits.

2. *“A thing of beauty is a joy forever (Board Question)*

Its loveliness increases, it will never

Pass into nothingness; but will keep

a bower quiet for us, and a sleep

full of sweet dreams, and health, and quiet breathing....

A flowery band to bind us to the earth.”

a. What are the effects of beautiful things on man’s spirit?

A thing of beauty provides eternal and everlasting joy to us. Whenever we are in a sad mood we can relive the joyful experiences in life and the happiness it gave us.

b. Why does a thing of beauty never pass into nothingness?

The joy provided by a thing of beauty is everlasting. It leaves an indelible imprint in our mind. Its loveliness increases manifold each time we think about it and thus we are forever able to relive the joyful experience.

c. What is meant by 'bower'?

A bower refers to a quiet, peaceful place under the shade of trees.

d. What do we do every day?

Every day we are wreathing a flowering band which binds us to the earth and enables us to live life despite the dejection that surrounds us.

e. How does a thing of beauty remain a joy forever?

A thing of beauty provides eternal and everlasting joy to us. Whenever we are in a pensive mood we can relive the joyful experience and happiness it gave us.

3. ***Some shape of beauty moves away the pall*** 4

From our dark spirits..... simple sheep."

(a) What removes the pall from our dark spirits?

A thing of beauty removes the pall or cover of unhappiness from our dark spirits.

(b) What sprouts a shady boon for sheep and how?

The old and young trees sprout branches to provide shade and shelter to the sheep. It is a blessing for the sheep against the harsh sun.

(c) Find words from the passage that mean (i) covering (ii) blessing

(i) pall (ii) boon

(d) Name the poem and the poet.

'A Thing of beauty' by John Keats.

II Answer the following questions in 30-40 words.

1. What according to Keats are the things that cause suffering and pain? 2

The poet says that a scarcity of good-natured people or in other words the wicked people outnumber the good people. The source of all our sorrows is either ill-health or another human being.

2. What makes human beings love life in spite of all the suffering?

The poet says that the beautiful things on earth lift the pall off our spirits and make life worth living. Each beautiful thing is like a link that forms a chain or wreath that binds us to this earth.

3. Why does the poet say 'mighty dead'?

The great ancestors are respected for their glorious deeds. Physically mighty as in mighty warriors or mentally mighty as in great poets, writers or philosophers. Their great lives provide inspiration for the living through their beauty just as their works continue to do.

Practice Questions-Short Answer Questions 2

1. How do we wreath a flowery band?

2. Why do human beings suffer or what depresses the human soul?

3. What does Keats mean by the 'grandeur of doom'?

4. How do we bind ourselves to the earth every morning?

5. Why and how is 'grandeur' associated with the mighty dead?