



সিগাএফএল এং এ নক্সামল (এংম)

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (S)

Government of Manipur

CLASS X

ENGLISH POETRY

CHAPTER 1 - SHALL I COMPARE THEE TO A SUMMER'S DAY

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SOLUTIONS

Shall I Compare Thee to a Summer's Day

EXERCISES

A. Choose the correct choice from the alternatives given:

a) The poet will like to compare his friend with

- i) Summer's beauty
- ii) Summer's clouds
- iii) Summer's flowers
- iv) A summer's day

Ans: iv) A summer's day

b) Summer's gold complexion is

- i) Golden flowers
- ii) Golden sunshine
- iii) Golden clouds
- iv) Golden afternoons

Ans: ii) golden sunshine

c) The poet believes that his friend will be remembered because of

- i) His poem
- ii) His friend's good looks
- iii) His works for the people
- iv) His children.

Ans: i) his poem

B. Answer the following question in a sentence each:

a. Who is thee?

Ans: "Thee" is the poet's friend.

b. What does the wind do to the flowers?

Ans: The wind shakes the flowers.



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c. What is 'summer's lease'?

Ans: 'Summer's lease' is the length of summer season.

d. Whose 'gold complexion' is referred to in the poem?

Ans: 'Golden complexion' is referred to the sun in the poem.

e. What are the 'eternal lines' mentioned in the poem.

Ans: The 'eternal lines' means everlasting lines of poetry.

f. 'So long lives this, and this gives life to thee.' Identify 'this' in the above line.

Ans: 'This' means the everlasting memory of his friend, i.e, the poem.

C. Answer the following questions briefly:

a. Describe the beauty of a summer's day in England.

Ans: In England, a summer's day is a blessing. England puts on the most beautiful look on a summer's day. It is because a summer's day is bright, beautiful and lovely. Moreover, its temperature is neither too hot nor too cold. This is the beauty of a summer's day in England.

b. 'Thou art more lovely and more temperate? Explain.

'or'

How does the poet compare the beauty of his friend with that of a summer's day?

Ans: In England, a summer's day is a blessing. It is bright, beautiful and lovely. Its temperature is neither too hot nor too cold but the poet is of the opinion that his friend's beauty is more lovely and more temperate than that of a summer's day. His friend's beauty will never fade. He says, "Thou art more lovely and more temperate."

c. 'And often is his gold complexion dimmed.' What does the poet mean by it?

Ans: 'And often is his gold complexion dimmed.'

In the given line, the poet is talking about the beauty of the eye of heaven i.e., the sun. He says that the sun shines bright and beautiful. He has a golden complexion. But his beauty is not eternal. He becomes dimmed when the sky is covered with black clouds. This is what the poet meant by the given line.



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d. Why does the poet say ‘every fair from fair sometimes decline’?

Ans: According to the poet, nature is overloaded with beautiful sights and sounds like the beauty of the flowers, that of the summer, the golden complexion of the sun etc. but this summer’s day beauty is not eternal. Its beauty is destroyed by chance or by changing course of nature. This is what the poet meant by the given line.

e. ‘Nor shall death brag thou wanderest in his shade.’ Why cannot death brag?

Ans: According to the poet, death is all powerful. No one can escape death. Nothing can outlast death. But the undefeatable death is powerless in the face of his friend’s beauty. It is because his friend’s beauty is eternal. It becomes immortal in the form of art in his poem. This is what the poet meant by the given line.

f. ‘So long lives this, and this gives life to thee.’ Explain.

Ans: In the given line the poet describes the longevity of his poem as well as his friend’s beauty. He says that his poem is eternal. It is because he feels that as long as men can live, as long as their eyes can see, so long his poem will exist. As long as his poem exists, it will give life to his friend’s beauty making it immortal.

D. Extra Question:

a. Why does the poet say that his friend's beauty is eternal?

Ans: According to the poet, his friend’s beauty cannot be destroyed by chance or by changing course of nature. Even the undefeatable death cannot take away his friend’s beauty. Moreover as long as men can live, as long as their eyes can see, so long his poem will exist. And, as long as his poem exists, it will give an immortal life to his friend’s beauty. Hence, the poet says that his friend’s beauty is eternal.



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