



মণিপুরৰ শাসনভাণ্ডাৰ (সংস্কৃতি)

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (S)

Government of Manipur

CLASS X
ENGLISH LITERATURE READER
POETRY : CHAPTER 5
PRELUDES
(T.S. ELIOT)

SOLUTIONS

COMPREHENSION

A. Based on your understanding of the poem complete the following statements:

- I.** In the first stanza? In the evening the city streets are filled with the smell of steak.
- II.** The rain in the evening makes the atmosphere unhealthy.
- III.** The showers beat on broken blinds and chimney pots.
- IV.** The horse is steaming and stamping because he was impatient and uncomfortable in the cold.
- V.** The morning air is filled with stale smell of beer and saw-dust.
- VI.** The dirty walls in thousand rooms are filled with shadows of the dull movement of the hands of city dwellers.

B. Answer the following questions in a sentence each:

- I. What season of the year is suggested**
Ans: Winter season is suggested in the first stanza.
- II. What is the evening compared to?**
Ans: The poet compared the evening with the burnt out ends of smoky days.
- III. What surrounds the feet of the passersby?**
Ans: Withered leaves which are scattered along with pieces of newspapers surround the feet of the passers-by.
- IV. When do the showers beat?**
Ans: The shower beats in the evening.



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V. What does the cab-horse do?

Ans: The cab-horse steams and stamps because it is impatient and uncomfortable in the cold.

VI. What smell fills the morning air?

Ans: The morning air is filled with the smell of stale beer.

VII. How are the feet of the men going to coffee-stands?

Ans: Their feet are still muddy from the mud on the streets.

**VIII. “.....hands
That are raising dinghy shades”**

Whose hands are referred to here?

Ans: The poet refers to the city dweller’s hands which are engaged in the same dull routine activities.

C. Answer the following questions briefly:

**I. “The winter evening settles down
With smells of steaks in the passageways”
What do these lines suggest?**

Ans: The above mentioned lines suggest that the city air is filled with the smell of cooking of meat. This smell makes the evening atmosphere unpleasant.

II. Why does Eliot compare the evening with “the burnt out ends of smoky days”?

Ans: Eliot compares the evening with “the burnt out ends of smoky days” because evening marks the end of the day like a burnt out cigarette butt. Here, the smoky days refer to any ordinary day without much excitement. The days are spent with little interest in the activities because of the unpleasant weather due to the presence of smoke.



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III. “The grimy scraps of withered leaves about your feet”

What do these lines suggest?

Ans : The line suggests that the withered leaves, newspaper and many other miscellaneous pieces of trash litters the lanes and passageways. But people do not care. Life goes on in the midst of the squalors.

IV. “The showers beat on broken blinds and chimney-pots.”

What are the impressions created by these lines?

Ans: This line creates an impression that the rain adds misery to the depressing and dreary atmosphere. People did not even bother to mend the broken blinds. Life goes on in a tedious mechanical manner.

V. What effect does Eliot want to create by the image “faint stale image of beers”?

Ans: By the image “faint stale image of beers”, Eliot shows the lack of freshness of the morning air in the town. He also wants to express that the city dwellers are proved to vices and morning air is spoiled with the smell of stale beer drank by them the night before.

VI. “Sawdust-trampled street”

Explain the image created by this line.

Ans: This line creates an image of a muddy and slush filled street and also how the inhabitants make an attempt to reduce the mud by putting sawdust but the sawdust sticks to the feet and makes the situation worst.

VII. What are the “other masquerades” mentioned in second stanza?

Ans: The “other masquerades” in the second stanza, mentioned are different activities of the people which are not meaningful. The people are walking with muddy feet towards coffee-stand, some are raising dingy shades in their houses.

VIII. What are the “dinghy shades” mentioned in the 22nd line?

Ans: The “dinghy shades” mentioned in the poem refers to the distinguishable filthy window shades suggestive of highly grimy and polluted atmosphere of an industrial city.
