



LESSON NO. 3 I AM THE TREE

SOLUTIONS:

COMPREHENSION

Answer the following questions:

1. What does the poet compare himself to?

Ans: The poet compares himself to a tree.

2. How does the tree behave?

Ans: The tree makes harsh unpleasant sound in the wind.

3. How does the twisted tin shack behave?

Ans: The twisted tin shack makes harsh unpleasant sound in the wind.

4. Why does the poet protest?

Ans: The poet is in terrible agony and he compares his situation to a sheet of a twisted tin shack which has been so mercilessly twisted by the chilly wind. Thus, he is in a mournful protest.

5. Why will not the poet be consoled?

Ans: The poet states that his painful cry will continue forever as he will never attain justice. He will forever remain inconsolable.

6. What is the mood presented in the poem?

Ans: The mood presented in the poem is pensive and sad. The poem reflects the agony of a coloured man who craves for acceptance in the society that prevails in the country.

7. What are the images that the poet has used to express his feelings?

Ans: The words cracking, twisted, stubborn, grating, protest, crying are the images that the poet has used to express his feelings.

8. What does the poet mean by “twisted and stubborn”?

Ans: The poet compares his difficult situation to a tree which is left out in the dark night and creaking painfully in the cold. The phrase “twisted and stubborn” shows the poet’s determination to protest until justice is restored for millions of sad hearts who are victims of apartheid.

9. Explain the meaning of the following lines:

I am the voice
crying in the night
that cries endlessly
and will not be consoled.

Ans: These lines have been taken from the poem “I am the Tree” composed by Dennis Brutus. Here the poet compares himself to a voice crying in the night. His cry will continue forever as he will never attain justice. He will forever remain inconsolable.



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