

No Men Are Foreign

(Poem)

James Kirkup

SHORT ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS

Q1- Why does the poet call harvests 'peaceful' and war as 'winter'?

Answer- Harvests always promise a good environment to live, prosperity for human beings, but war always stands with destruction, loss, poverty etc.

**Q2- "... whenever we are told to hate our brothers..."
When do you think this happens and why?**

Answer- Sometimes some selfish people instigate the innocent to harm others. They do it for their own benefit. The common or ordinary man does not understand their tricks and starts hating his fellow humanbeings. They tell them to cause riots.

Q3- How does the man pollute this earth by going to war?

Answer- Wars are imposed on lands and people. The poison of hate divides men and nations. They go to wars, kill and destroy one another. Hating our brothers means hating ourselves. Similarly, raising arms against the people of one land means raising arms against humanity

Q4- Mention any two ways in which people living in other countries are similar to us.

Answer- The poet says that nobody is different and peculiar. No country is foreign. A single body breathes beneath all uniforms. Moreover, the land is the same everywhere.

LONG ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS

Q1- How does the poem justify that people in all countries of the world are essentially the same?

Answer- All men living on this earth live and die the same way. They share the same fate. Beneath different kinds of colorful dresses and faces, all have the heart of man. While they live, they walk on the same earth. After their death, they will be buried under the same earth. The apparent differences of lands and race are only superficial and not real. Our biased and impolite behavior towards the fellow human beings becomes the cause of unnecessary wars

Q2- How does the poet James Kirkup prove that no men are foreign? How far is he able to convince his readers about it?

Answer- We all are alike. We have same body structure. All of us need air to breathe, sun to get sunlight and warmth and water for many purposes. Our daily routine is also almost the same. We get up in the morning take a bathe, have breakfast and go to work or school. All of us long for love. We all sleep at night and wake up in the morning. When our needs and feelings are the same, then

we should treat all people equally. We should not look down upon anybody on the basis of his/her color, caste, region or gender. We should treat everyone as our brother and sister. Unfortunately, some self-centered people fight with others and try to hurt them. They think that others have harmed them. We should not think that other people are 'others'. They are also our brothers. If they make any mistake, we should forgive them or compromise with the

Q3- How, according, to the poet, the human earth is 'defiled' and the innocence of air 'outraged'?

Answer- James Kirkup gives a definite message of hope to mankind. In spite of apparent divisions and differences, all are united together by the common bond of humanity and mankind. Vested interests gain by dividing lands and people. They conspire to create hatred and divisions among people. We should frustrate their evil designs. We should understand and try to recognize that the same soul runs through all the people. Let us work for the unity and prosperity of all lands and all people. Let us not pollute and defile the earth which is ours. Hatred and narrow ideas pollute the minds of the people. Conflicts and wars bring destruction and violence. We should remember that raising our arms against anyone means fighting against ourselves. The poet reminds us to remember, recognize and strengthen the common bond that unites mankind and humanity.

Q4- How are we responsible for war? Explain with the reference to the poem, No Men Are Foreign'?

Answer- Everyone is responsible for war. If we start hating our brethren, we will become the cause of tension. And the tension is converted into war one day. So nobody should hate and despise anyone. Our biased and impolite behavior towards the fellow human beings becomes the cause of unnecessary wars. Wars are imposed on lands and people. The poison of hate divides men and nations. They go to wars, kill and destroy one another. Hating our brothers means hating ourselves. Similarly, raising arms against the people of one land means raising arms against humanity.

Q5- All great persons tell us to live cordially as brothers. But we people tend to fight over trivial issues. Why don't we live with others people harmoniously? What makes us fight and hurt other?

Answer- It is true that many people have been telling us to live harmoniously since long. We never follow their message. We also know it that our greed to get more wealth and power cannot give us peaceful life. But some deep-rooted evils in our society make us draw a distinction between people. We know that all customs and conventions have been made by people. God has made all people

equal. But we make differences between people for our selfish motives. We start to hate even our family members due to our ego to be more powerful. By doing so, we at last harm ourselves. We became the objects of hatred for society. In society, people dislike selfish people.

Q6- What is the central idea of the poem?

Answer-James Kirkup gives a definite message of hope to mankind. In spite of apparent divisions and differences, all are united together by the common bond of humanity and mankind. Vested interests gain by dividing lands and people. They conspire to create hatred and divisions among people. We should frustrate their evil designs. We should understand and try to recognize that the same soul runs through all the people. Let us work for the unity and prosperity of all lands and all people. Let us not pollute and defile the earth which is ours. Hatred and narrow ideas pollute the minds of the people. Conflicts and wars bring destruction and violence. We should remember that raising our arms against anyone means fighting against ourselves. The poet reminds us to remember, recognize and strengthen the common bond that unites mankind and humanity.