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A Thing of Beauty

- John
Keats

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Prepared
by: _____

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About the poet and poem-

John Keats an English Romantic poet was born in London on October 31, 1795 and died in Rome in 1821 at the young age of 25 due to illness.

“A Thing of Beauty” is a short piece taken from John Keats’s famous poem ‘Endymion: A Poetic Romance; In this poem, the poet gives a message. “A thing of beauty is a joy for ever; Its beauty increases and it never passes into nothingness. Beauty is a source of never-ending inspiration and delight. It gives us peace, sleepful of sweet dreams and sound health. The poet believes that man’s life on this earth is nothing but a tale of grief and sorrow. There is sadness and gloom in every heart. The poet says that it is beauty alone that takes away the gloom from the human heart.

The poet lists some such things that are sources of happiness . The poet says that we have the sun, the moon, trees, beautiful flowers, small streams which are constant sources of happiness These beautiful things of nature make our lives sweet, soothing and happy. The poet says that beautiful things are the fountain of joy. The beauty of nature is lovelier than all lovely tales that we have heard or read. Nature gives us an immortal drink that pours into our hearts right from heaven. All the beautiful things are like nectar for us. These are God’s gift to us.

Message of the poem:

John Keats was a worshipper of beauty. The very first line of the poem conveys the message of the poet. John Keats conveys to us that an object of beauty gives us a perennial joy. Beauty never fades and is not devalued. It never passes into nothingness. The poet refers to the sun and moon that shine brilliantly in the sky. He refers to old and young trees which provide us shade in summer. Different type of flowers spread beauty and charm. Streams of clear water bring a cooling effect in summer. Roses spread fragrance everywhere. In fact beautiful objects of nature are a source of joy forever. A thing of beauty is a joy forever and it makes us forget the sorrows and sufferings of the world. It gives us peace of the mind and health of the body. God has given us numberless things of beauty.

Word Meaning:

Bower- a pleasant place in the shade under a tree.

Morrow- Next day.

Wreathing- weaving into a wreath.

Despondence- disappointment.

Gloomy- sad

Pall- covering.

Boon- blessing.

Rills- small streams.

Grandeur- so as to impress.

Mighty- powerful.

Immortal- that lives forever and never dies.

Dooms- last day of existence.

Heaven's brink- the door of God's home.

Sprinkling- scattered.

Questions and answers:-

1- How is a thing of beauty a joy forever?

Ans:- A thing of beauty is a constant source of happiness and pleasure. Its loveliness increases every moment. A thing of beauty is never devalued. It never passes into nothingness.

2- What pleasure does a beautiful thing give us?

Ans:- A thing of beauty is a joy for ever. It makes us forget the sorrows and sufferings of the world. It gives us peace of the mind and health of the body.

3- List the things of beauty mentioned in the poem 'A thing of Beauty'.

Ans:- The sun; the moon, the trees old and young, beautiful daffodil flowers, green surroundings are some of such beautiful things.

4- Why does Keats associate 'grandeur with 'the mighty dead'?

Ans:- The 'mighty dead' were people of great power, authority and grandeur. They were wealthy, brave and awesome people. They are dead in their grave but their grandeur and glory survives. The noble deeds of the brave men who sacrificed their lives are an inspiration for us forever.

5- What image does the poet use to describe the beautiful bounty of the earth?

Ans:- To describe the beautiful bounty of the earth the poet uses the following image of the sun, the moon, trees old and young, sprouting a shady boon for simple sheep: daffodils with the green world they live in; clear rills making cooling covert; the mid forest brake, rich with a sprinkling of fair musk-rose fragrance.

Main points of the poem:

- (i) The beautiful things of nature are permanent source of joy.
- (ii) Its value never decreases.
- (iii) A thing of beauty is a shelter for us.
- (iv) A thing of beauty gives us a sound sleep full of sweet dreams.
- (v) Nature provides us an immortal drink that pours into our hearts right from heaven.

Source: Flemingo.NCERT/CBSE Class 12th English book, NCERT solutions.
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