

WELLAND GOULDSMITH SCHOOL

English Literature Class 8

Answers

WORKSHEET

Question 1) "Some are meet for a maiden's wrist.....
To the limpid glory of new born leaves."

a) Who is the narrator of the above lines? How has the narrator described the bangles in the previous stanza?

Answer 1a) The above extract has been taken from the poem 'The Bangle Sellers' by Sarojini Naidu. The narrator of the given lines is one of the bangle sellers who take great pride in carrying their bangles to the temple fair where they expect them to be sold to the happy daughters and wives.

In the previous stanza i.e. the first stanza, the bangle sellers describe their bangles to be shining loads meant for happy daughters and wives. With the help of a metaphor (an implied comparison) they compare the multicoloured bangles to the rainbow and their glowing nature makes them the rainbow tinted circles of life. The bangles are symbolic of happy lives that particularly the happy maidens and married women lead.

b) What does the silver and blue colour of the mountain mist suggest?

Answer 1b) The maidens prefer to wear bangles that are silvery and blue, as misty as the mountain mist. Here, the mountain mist bars clear visibility therefore not revealing the mountains clearly before us. The yet unravelled mysterious natures of the maidens are also much like the mist, not entirely comprehensible.

c) What does the poet imply when she says, "Some are flushed like the birds that dream"?

Answer 1c) Some of the bangles that the maidens choose to wear are as pink as the birds that float bordering the calm surface of a woodland stream. For the unmarried girl lost in her dreams of a happy marriage the bright pink colour in the flower birds is indeed a perfect match. They also reflect their warmth in heart and kindly disposition.

d) Explain "Some are aglow with the bloom that cleaves".

Answer 1d) The shining green bangles whose freshness is close to the vivid beauty of the new born, tender leaves are very suitable for the young wrists of maidens. The imagery of the new born leaves is also symbolic of the innocence that one can find in such tender souls. They are as fresh, tender and glorious as the new born leaves. The limpid glory or the vibrant clean beauty of the leaves is quite similar to the beauty of the maidens.

Question 2) "Some are like the fields of sunlit corn,
Like her bridal laughter and bridal tear."

a) What kind of bangles are preferred by brides on their bridal morning?

Answer 2a) On their bridal mornings the girls like to wear bright yellow coloured bangles which may be compared to the sunlit corn fields. The bright yellow colour enhances the beauty of the bride and is also a perfect match with the typical morning rituals of an Indian marriage like the 'Haldi ceremony'.

b) Why do they prefer fiery red bangles for the evening festivities?

Answer 2b) The fiery red bangles are an absolute choice of the bride. These bangles that adorn her wrist during her wedding eve are suggestive of the passions in her heart. Their colour has been compared to the flames of her marriage fire which tells us about her heart's desire to love and to be loved.

c) Bring out the significance of the last two lines of the stanza.

Answer 2c) In the last 2 lines of the stanza, the bangles are described with the use of adjectives such as tinkling, luminous, tender and clear and then with the help of a simile they have been compared to the bridal laughter and bridal tear by the poet. The sound and other attributes that the bangles display are quite similar to that of the bride. As she walks the bangles tinkle and their bright and clear nature is like the two clear but opposite emotions that the bride displays. They are like her bridal laughter. She laughs because she is happy having tied her wedlock and also unhappy and weeping at the separation from her parental abode where she has spent several lovely years of her life.

d) What kind of a poem is 'The Bangle Sellers'? What is its rhyming scheme?

Answer 2d) The Bangle Sellers by Sarojini Naidu is written in a lyric form. It is remarkable for its verbal melody.

The rhyming scheme followed in each stanza is '**aabbcc**' which means the first line rhyming with the second, the third line with the fourth and the fifth line rhyming with the sixth line of the poem.

Question 3) How far do you think this poem is relatable to modern day life?

Answer 3) Despite the poems evocative power it does not appeal to the modern reader. First, very few people at least in urban areas have ever seen the bangle sellers. Some ladies also have little or no charm left for old fashioned bangles. I would therefore not say that 'The bangle sellers' by Sarojini Naidu is a very contemporary poem. The poet reflects orthodox, outdated patriarchal ideology and woman is presented as tender, weak, dependent and eager to be settled in marriage. Moreover, the prejudice of widows not wearing bangles is also not much acceptable to our present revolutionary thought process.