

CLASS 12

ENGLISH LITERATURE

WE ARE THE MUSIC MAKERS – ARTHUR WILLIAM EDGAR O' SHAUGHNESSY

'We are the Music Makers' published in 1873 comes under the title of an 'Ode'. This particular poem is a glorification of artists across different realms, acknowledging their achievements. It describes the life of artists, the beauty of their artworks and their impact on their surroundings and on the world outside.

In the first stanza the poet addresses the artist of all fields. The artists live in their own imaginative world and it is through their brilliant imagination that they are able to create amazing works of art. The artists wander alone by the waves and sit in isolation by the streams. Thus, the artists have a tough life full of hardships which brings out the art from them. They have to forsake the world and the society to create things that are extraordinary. The 'pale moon' can signify the hard lives of the artists and their meagre income. However, it is the artists who make a difference. They are the 'movers and shakers'. They can bring a change in the world through their works and they can make the monotonous world a creative place to be.

In the second stanza the contributions of the artists to the world through their works is highlighted. Through their evergreen songs, they can create wonderful cities and through their stories they can talk about glorious empires. The artists motivate people. A man with a dream and resolution can go about and achieve great things through his determination. Artists can stir the minds of the people. Art is powerful and it can destroy an empire too. Thus, works of art hold a great importance.

In the third stanza the poet says, that artists have been there all the time suggesting art is immortal. The artists built the ancient cities of Nineveh which was destroyed, with great efforts (the slaves who built the city were tortured). Then the city of Babel was built with happiness by the architects. The artists are hence powerful

people. It is the artists who helped create the modern world by showing the older world the greatness of the former. Each age that goes away was a dream of the artists and the creators, and each age to come is a dream that will take birth.

WORKSHEET

QUESTION 1

In this poem the poet has considered the artist as the 'world losers' and 'world forsakers', at the same time he call them the 'movers' and the 'shakers' of the world. Justify.