

Wind - Subramania Bharati

Answers to NCERT Questions

THINKING ABOUT THE POEM

1. What are the things the wind does in the first stanza?

Ans: In the first stanza, the wind breaks the shutters of the windows. It blows so forcefully that it scatters the papers, throws the books from the shelves and also tears the pages of the books. To add to the woe, it brings rain once again.

2. Have you seen anybody winnow grain at home or in a paddy field? What is the word in your language for winnowing? What do people use for winnowing?

Ans: [Answers may vary] –Winnowing means separating the grain from their outer covering, called chaff. Winnowing is done by letting the grain (wheat) fall gently from a cane container while a strong wind or fan is blown. In Hindi, it is called Varsana.

3. What does the poet say the wind God winnows?

Ans: The poet says that the wind God destroys everything weak that come in its way. The weak crumbling houses, doors, rafters, wood, bodies, lives and hearts, and crushes them all.

4. What should we do to make friends with the wind?

Ans: We should make strong houses with firm doors. We should also make ourselves physically and mentally strong by building strong firm bodies and be steadfast.

5. What do the last four lines of the poem mean to you?

Ans: In the last four lines, the poet inspires us to face the hardships in our lives bravely. Wind symbolises the challenges that come our way. The poet further adds that the wind not only extinguishes weak fires but it assists the strong fires to burn more brightly. Metaphorically, the poet means to say in times of adversity, those who want to survive will accept all problems as a challenge, whereas those who expect others to help them will be crushed to death. It is aptly said —God helps those who help themselves.

6. How does the poet speak to the wind — in anger or with humour? You must also have seen or heard of the wind “crumbling lives. What is your response to this? Is it like the poet’s?

Ans: The poet speaks to the wind in anger. The strong winds are known to cause damage on land as well as on sea. Very strong wind can turn and sink ships. On land, they can play havoc with lives as well as on natural and man-made things. However, I feel that the wind when harnessed can be brought to various uses like generating electricity, moving turbines and turning wind mills. The wind is responsible for bringing

rain and cools the atmosphere after the scorching heat of the sun.

Additional Questions

Extract Based Questions

Read the following extracts carefully and answer the questions that follow: (4 Marks each)

1. Wind, come softly.

Don't break the shutters of the windows.

Don't scatter the papers.

Don't throw down the books on the shelf.

- (a) What does the poet ask the wind to do?
- (b) What does the wind do?
- (c) Why does the wind not listen to the speaker?
- (d) Give another word for the expression 'to spread all over'.

Ans:

- (a) The poet asks the wind to blow gently.
- (b) The wind breaks the shutters of the window, it spreads the loose sheets everywhere and it throws the books off from its rack.
- (c) The wind does not listen to the speaker because it does what it wishes to do.
- (d) Scatter

2. There, look what you did — you threw them all down.

You tore the pages of the books.

You brought rain again.

- (a) Who is 'you' in the above lines?
- (b) What has it done?
- (c) What has it brought again?
- (d) What is the tone of the speaker?

Ans:

- (a) 'You' in the above lines is the wind.

(b) The wind has torn the pages of the book it had earlier thrown off the shelf.

(c) It has brought the rain again.

(d) The speaker is reprimanding / accusing the wind.

3. You're very clever at poking fun at weaklings.

Frail crumbling houses, crumbling doors, crumbling rafters,
crumbling wood, crumbling bodies, crumbling lives,
crumbling hearts —

the wind god winnows and crushes them all.

(a) Who is considered clever in the above lines?

(b) Which word in the given lines would you consider as 'Anaphora'?

(c) What destruction has the wind caused?

(d) What does this expression 'winnows and crushes them all' mean?

Ans:

(a) The wind is considered as clever.

(b) The repetition of the word 'crumbling' is Anaphora. The repetition is to emphasise the destruction caused by the wind.

(c) The wind has destroyed the doors and also the roof of houses. It has caused destruction to the trees, livestock and human beings too. It has caused immense pain to the hearts of all.

(d) The expression means that the wind crushes down all the things that come in its way without discrimination.

4. He won't do what you tell him.

So, come, let's build strong homes,

Let's joint the doors firmly.

Practise to firm the body.

Make the heart steadfast.

(a) Who are 'he' and 'you' in the first line?

(b) Why will 'he' not listen?

(c) What does the poet ask the readers to do?

(d) Find a word from the extract that means the same as 'firm and unwavering'.

Ans:

(a) 'He' is the wind and 'you' is the listener or reader.

(b) The wind will not listen as its nature is to exploit or harm the weak and support the strong.

(c) The poet asks the readers to build strong houses with secure hinges for their doors. He also asks us to be both physically and mentally strong.

(d) Steadfast

5. The wind blows out weak fires.

He makes strong fires roar and flourish.

His friendship is good.

We praise him every day.

(a) What does the wind do to weak fires?

(b) What does the poet want us to do ?

(c) Who is 'him' in the above lines?

(d) Find a word from the extract that is opposite to 'condemn'.

Ans:

(a) The wind extinguishes the weak fire.

(b) The poet wants us to make friends with the wind.

(c) The wind is referred to as him in the above lines.

(d) Praise

Short Answer Questions (30–40 words: 2 Marks each)

1. Why does the poet appeal to the wind to come softly?

Ans: The poet appeals to the wind to come softly as it is doing more harm than good. It has broken the shutters of the window and entered the rooms. As a result, the books on the shelf have been thrown down and its pages have been torn. The loose papers that were kept neatly have been scattered all over.

2. Why is the poet affected when the wind has brought 'rain again'?

Ans: The poet is affected when the wind has brought the rain again as it is now splashing into the house through the broken windows. The books and the scattered papers lying on the floor are therefore, getting wet and spoilt.

3. Why should we build strong houses?

Ans: We should build strong houses to protect ourselves from the elements of nature like the wind, rain and sun. In other words, we should make ourselves mentally and physically strong, so that we can face all the challenges of life with confidence.

4. How does the wind make fun of the weak?

Ans: The poet says that wind makes fun of all weaklings, as they are too weak to protect themselves. It appears that the wind enjoys suppressing and destroying the weak who do not have the courage to face the hardships of life. The wind breaks down all weak structures made by man to protect himself, just to see how man will try to survive.

5. What is the symbolism of 'wind'?

Ans: Some have perhaps witnessed a strong wind knock a nest out of a tree or rip leaves or branches off a tree, but not the wind itself as it is considered to be the vital breath of the universe.

Wind has been symbolised here as the agent that rattles our equilibrium. Those who are physically and mentally weak will get destroyed in times of adversity, whereas the strong will survive. The strong will reassess the problems that have caused the damage and find a solution. The weak will just cry and blame the wind and the circumstances.

6. What is the theme of the poem, 'Wind'?

Ans: The theme of the poem, 'Wind' is that we should have a strong body and mind, so that in times of adversity or difficulties, we are able to combat all odds. We should be willing to face challenges and overcome them with ease. There will always be someone waiting round the corner to overpower and defeat us, if we are weak.

Long Answer Questions (100–150 words: 8 Marks each)

1. Discuss, why you consider 'Wind' and 'The Road Not Taken' as symbolic poems.

Ans: Poems are read for enjoyment and to enjoy nature or lives as seen from the eyes of the poet.

Poems can also convey a message to its readers. In the "Wind, the poet appeals to us to be mentally and physically strong, so that we can combat all opposing forces. Be strong to vanquish and not be vanquished. The poet here shows how the wind breaks down all weak structures and extinguishes weak fires, but when it faces strong fires it simply assists to burn more brightly. The poet suggests that man should befriend the wind instead of shying away from its onslaught.

On the other hand, in “The Road Not Taken, the poet when faced with a problem, ponders over the situation for a long time. He weighs the pros and cons, and then finally makes a decision that would be deciding his future life.

The two poems are symbolic as both are dealing with the “state of mind of the individual. The strength of the wind and the strength of our decisions, will assess our strength as human beings.

2. What damage did the wind cause? How can this be avoided?

Ans: The wind causes a lot of destruction. It breaks the shutters of the windows, scatters the papers and throws the books from the shelves. It even breaks the doors, rafters, trees, man and man’s hearts by causing suffering. This can be avoided only if man rises against all negative elements. In the poem ‘Wind’, man can only overcome adversity, if and when it makes friends with the wind. Man must make himself strong both mentally and physically, so that in the face of any challenge, he can come out strong. The poet suggests that we must make wind our friend by which he suggests that we should develop the ability and confidence to extract the positive from the negative and transform it for the larger good.

3. The poet is a great lover of mankind. Justify with reference to the poem, ‘Wind’.

Ans: In the poem ‘Wind’, the poet wants every human being, especially who are weak, to become strong physically and mentally. The poet wants them to be bold enough to face any difficult challenges that come in their life. Just like if we have strong houses, we can keep ourselves safe in it, in the same manner, if we have strong heart, we can face any difficult challenges of life.

People who are weak get defeated by their problems of life. The poet wants everyone to make their life happy by facing the challenges of life. The poet’s thoughts for mankind prove that he is a great lover of mankind.

Self- Assessment Test

Extract Based Questions

Read the following extracts carefully and answer the questions that follow.

1. Wind, come softly.

Don’t break the shutters of the windows.
Don’t scatter the papers.
Don’t throw down the books on the shelf.

(a) Why does the poet want the wind to come softly?

(b) Who is the wind personified as?

(c) Where do you think the papers and the books were before the onslaught of the wind?

(d) Find a word from the extract that means the same as 'rack'.

2. He won't do what you tell him.

So, come, let's build strong homes,
Let's join the doors firmly.
Practise to firm the body.

Make the heart steadfast.

(a) Name the poem and the poet.

(b) What does the poet suggest to do collectively?

(c) What do you think would happen if we are not strong-minded?

(d) Who is disobedient?

Short Answer Questions

1. 'Crumbling wood, crumbling bodies, crumbling doors crumbling rafters'. What is the significance of repeating the words in the above line?

2. What does the poet imply when he says, 'the wind blow out weak fires and makes strong fires roar and flourish'?

3. Write a paragraph describing the naughty wind.

4. Do you feel the wind obliges man when it blows? Why/Why not?

5. Why does the poet want us to praise the wind every day?

Long Answer Questions

1. How would you handle the strong winds that thrash you in the course of your life?

2. How does the wind make fun of weaklings? What has the poet suggested for the people who are weak?

3. You work for an NGO. How would you increase the awareness among the people living in the slums on disaster management?