

## The Trees Previous Year Questions (with model answers)

**Q1. "The trees" is a symbolic poem and Adrienne Rich has used trees as a metaphor for human beings. What do they symbolize? Explain. [CBSE 2024]**

**Ans.** The trees symbolize women who want freedom. They want to escape from the confinement of their homes and become free in the vast open forest. They are trying to release the roots from the ground so that they can go out and meet the air which is a symbol of freedom.

**Q2. What message does Adrienne Rich want to convey through the poem, 'The Trees'? [CBSE 2020]**

**Ans.** The poem "The Trees" by Adrienne Rich is a metaphor which compares the trees to women. The poet is a feminist and highlights the desire of women to be free and go out in the open. The trees want to free themselves from the floor of the house and go in the open forest. They are cramped in the houses and their feelings can be felt and heard by the poet. The roots are shuffling, branches are moving towards the window. The trees move into the open and are greeted by the wind. The moon gets broken by the oak tree's shadow which looks different and highlights the power of the trees.

**Q3. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:**

*The trees inside are moving out into the forest,  
the forest that was empty all these days  
where no bird could sit  
no insect hide  
no sun bury its feet in shadow*

*the forest that was empty all these nights  
will be full of trees by morning. [CBSE 2020]*

**(a) What are the trees trying to do?**

**Ans.** The trees are trying to return back to the forests where they belong.

**(b) Why was the forest empty?**

**Ans.** The forests were empty because the trees were held captive inside the houses. People were cutting down and uprooting the trees in order to fulfill their needs of beautifying their houses and creating artificial environments for the trees to live in.

**(c) All these days, the forest referred to here was \_\_\_\_\_.**

**(i) filled (ii) empty**

**(ii) hidden (iv) separated**

**Ans.** (ii)

**(d) The figure of speech used in these lines is \_\_\_\_\_ :**

**(i) Simile (ii) Alliteration**

**(iii) Personification (iv) Metonymy**

**Ans.** (iii)

**Q4. Why is the poet writing long letters? Why does she not mention the departure of the trees? [CBSE 2019]**

**Ans.** The poet is writing long letters probably to keep herself busy in some activity. She does not mention the departure of the trees in her long letters because she doesn't want anyone to know that the trees inside her house are rebelling and fighting their way out to reach the forest. The trees struggle silently at night to break free from their captivity when no one is watching them. She wants the trees to be

liberated and be one with nature where they belong. Therefore, she feels that it is best not to say a word about it to anybody.

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