

Keeping Quiet Previous Year Questions (with model answers)

Q1. How can Earth play the role of a teacher according to Pablo Neruda? [CBSE 2025]

Ans. The Earth teaches us about life after death. It is a cycle which can be seen in nature. At one time, everything seems to be dead and then gradually, it comes to life again.

Q2. If you were the poet of “A Thing of Beauty”, how would you interpret the need for quiet introspection as mentioned in “Keeping Quiet”? [CBSE 2024]

Ans. If I were the poet of “A Thing of Beauty,” I would interpret the need for quiet introspection as a fundamental step toward appreciating the beauty around us. In “Keeping Quiet,” the call for silence and pause is essential for reflecting on our actions and their impact on the world. This introspection allows individuals to reconnect with their inner selves and recognize the profound beauty in simple, everyday moments. Just as beauty in nature provides solace and joy, quiet introspection helps us understand and value these experiences. It is through this reflection that we can foster a deeper appreciation for life’s small wonders, promoting peace and contentment within ourselves and our surroundings.

Q3. ‘There can be life under apparent stillness’. Explain. [CBSE 2023]

Ans. In his poem ‘Keeping Quiet’, Pablo Neruda encourages us to stay still and quiet, even if just for a while. All destructive behaviours will cease, wars will terminate, and the misery of not understanding ourselves will be interrupted during these periods of inactivity. Even fishermen at sea will spare the whales, and the entire planet will come to life. The poem also encourages us to reconnect with nature and recover our inner identity, which will help us to be kind and respectful to one another. Even in apparent silence, Neruda reminds us, there remains the possibility of life.

Q4. How can suspension of activities help in making life better? [CBSE 2020]

Ans. Suspension of activities will give us free time to think and introspect. Thus, we will realize the harmful activities that we engage in and will stop them.

Q5. Give examples from ‘Keeping Quiet’ to show that Neruda was peace loving. [CBSE 2019]

Ans. We know that the poet Neruda is a peace-loving person through several instances in the poem. He cares for both humans and nature. In the poem, Neruda wishes that fishermen do not hunt whales, he wants the man who is collecting salt to stop for a while and see the self-harm it is doing and lastly, he wishes that people

who run about indulging in wars, to stop what they are doing and instead, embrace peace with their brothers.

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