

## Snake Previous Year Questions (with model answers)

**Q1. Describe the poet's (D.H. Lawrence) dual attitude towards the snake. [CBSE 2024]**

**Ans.** The poet has a dual attitude towards the snake. On the one hand, he treats it as a guest and even compares it to God. On the contrary, his inner voice of education compels him to hit and kill the snake which is considered dangerous.

**Q2. Why did the poet wait for the snake to drink first from the trough? [CBSE 2020]**

**Ans.** The poet thought that a snake came to the trough before him. He considered the snake as a guest and felt honored that someone had come to this place to drink water and hosted him very well considering him as a guest.

**Q3. Whenever we act against the voice of our conscience, the result is suffering. Explain with reference to the poet's action against the snake and its consequences. [CBSE 2018]**

**Ans.** When we act against the voice of our conscience, we suffer. The poet's inner voice advised him to treat the snake as if it were a guest. He wished for peaceful coexistence with other species. But, ignoring the voice of his conscience and without thinking about the consequences of his actions, he struck the snake. He quickly regretted his careless action. His conscience pricked him for hitting the snake unnecessarily, despite the fact that it had not harmed him in any way. He was overcome by a sense of sin and guilt. He desired to make amends and beg forgiveness.

**Q4. In the poem "Snake", why does the poet say "I have something to expatiate."? [CBSE 2018]**

**Ans.** The poet says so because he tried to kill the snake though it did not cause any harm to him. He was feeling guilty for this act and knew that he would have to amend things to be forgiven for this sin, just like the mariner who killed the albatross bird.

**Q5. Why did the poet wait for the snake to quench its thirst first? [CBSE 2018]**

**Ans.** The poet waits for the snake to quench its thirst because he considers it to be an honoured guest. Besides, as the snake had come before him, it was first in the order.

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