



INDIAN SCHOOL DARSAIT



DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

Subject : English Topic : Solitary Reaper Date of Worksheet : August 2017

Resource Person: Shobha Krishnan Date : _____

Name of the Student : _____ Class & Division : IX Roll Number : ____

I	Read the following extract and answer the questions that follow:-	Marks
	<p><i>Alone she cuts and binds the grain: And sings a melancholy strain: O listen! for the vale profound Is overflowing with the sound'</i></p> <p>(a) Who is being addressed by the poet and what is she engaged in? (b) What is the mood of the singer? (c) Explain the 'vale profound'? (d) What does 'melancholy strain' refer to?</p>	4
2.	<p><i>' No nightingale did ever chant More welcome notes to weary bands Of travellers in some shady haunt Among Arabian sands;</i></p> <p>(a) For whom did the nightingale sing? (b) What effect does the nightingale's song have? (c) What does 'shady haunt' refer to? (d) Which poetic device does the poet use while comparing the song of the reaper with that of the nightingale?</p>	4
3.	<p><i>' A voice so thrilling ne'er was heard In spring - time from the cuckoo bird.'</i></p> <p>(a) In which season does the cuckoo-bird sing? (b) What is the effect of the cuckoo-bird's singing on its listeners? (c) Pick out the word from the stanza which is the synonym of 'exciting'? (d) Name the poem and the poet.</p>	4
4.	<p><i>'I listened, motionless and still And, as I mounted up the hill, The music in my heart I bore, Long after it was heard no more.'</i></p> <p>(a) What is the rhyme scheme of the stanza?</p>	4

	(b) What does ‘ I listen’d, motionless and still show? (c) Why does the sound of the music linger on? (d) Which is the poetic device used in the third line?	
II	Short Answers in 30 -40 words:-	
1.	Inspiration seems to know no boundaries. How did the poet feel it as described in the poem? Ans: The poet, William Wordsworth, experienced a deep inspiration from the voice of the solitary highland lass who was cutting and binding grain in a remote highland rural area. Her voice left a deep indentation on the mind of the poet. The mark was so deep that he went ahead and wrote a poem to describe his enriching experience.	2
2.	’What are the probable themes of the song being sung by the solitary reaper? Ans: The poet guessed that the song was about an important historical event or everyday event. He thought it could be about a disaster or calamity in the past or the death or illness of a loved one.	2
3.	’The Solitary Reaper’ describes a memorable experience of William Wordsworth. Describe. Ans: Wordsworth describes his memorable experience in ‘The Solitary Reaper’. He compared the solitary reaper’s song to that of the best singers of Nature- the cuckoo and the nightingale and found it to be better than either of the two. He couldn’t understand the language in which she was singing yet he remembered it for a long time after it could not be heard anymore. It had left a deep impact on his mind.	2
III.	Answers to Long Answer Questions (Value Based)	
1.	Why do you think Wordsworth has chosen the song of the nightingale and the cuckoo, for comparison with the solitary reaper’s song? Ans: The song of the nightingale appears as a welcome note to the bands of weary travellers in the Arabian desert. The sweet notes of the nightingale’s song have a pleasant and soothing effect on their tired minds, while resting at a shady haunt. In the spring time, the voice of the cuckoo appears to be thrilling and refreshing, breaking the calm of the seas in the remote islands of the Hebrides. The song of the reaper is, however, more melodious and captivating than that of either of the two.	8
	Practice Questions	
1	What were the first thoughts when the poet saw the solitary reaper?	2
2	“Breaking the silence of the seas among the farthest Hebrides”-What is meant by the silence of the seas? How does the silence break?	2
3	Is the title ’The Solitary Reaper ’relevant to the poem?	8

