



INDIAN SCHOOL DARSAIT DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH



Subject : ENGLISH	Topic : Keeping Quiet	Worksheet : 18
Resource Person: JyothilakshmiRanjit	Date : _____	
Name of the Student : _____	Class: XII Division : _____	Roll Number : _____

1. Read the extract carefully and answer the questions that follow:

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Q1. *“Fishermen in the cold sea
Would not harm whales
And the man gathering salt
Would look at his hurt hands.”*

a) What is ‘fisherman’ symbolic of?

The fisherman symbolizes man’s indiscriminate exploitation of nature for his vested interests.

b) What will happen when fishermen do not harm whales?

The whales will be no longer on the verge of extinction. A sense of co-existence can go into the minds of people.

c) What has happened to the man gathering salt? What must he do?

The man gathering salt has injured his hands. He must take care of his hurt hands and should realize that his actions are self-destructive.

d) What would happen in this moment of silence?

He will become conscious of the harm causing to others and to themselves and will work towards a better tomorrow peace, co-existence, mutual understanding and harmony.

e) What image does the poet create in the last line?

He creates the image of incessant suffering. In his effort to add comforts to his life he has paid no heed to the pain that caused him.

Q2” *Perhaps the earth can teach us
As when everything seems dead
And later prove to be alive
Now I’ll count up to twelve
And you keep quiet and I will go.”*

a) Who can teach us and what?

The earth can teach us. The Earth can teach us how new life emerges from the ashes of the dead remains. Likewise quiet introspection will enable us to live a life of peace and harmony.

c) Why does the speaker count up to twelve?

It is a part of initiation in meditation. All distractions and digressions are washed away and man is in a moment of bliss.

d) Explain-‘you keep quiet and I will go’?

The poet wants us all to keep quiet and experience the moment of realization and peace. He will go and pass on the message to another group of people.

Short Answer Questions

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1. Why does Pablo Neruda urge us to keep still?

Stillness is necessary for reflection and quiet introspection. We can hear the voice of our conscience and thus withdraw ourselves from undesirable actions and contribute to create a society of peace and mutual understanding.

2. 'Under the apparent stillness there is life'. Justify.

The poet does not want to equate stillness with total inactivity. Under the apparent stillness there is life. We can learn it from the earth when everything seems dead, the earth still remains alive. The life on earth goes on under the apparent stillness.

3. Why do men become sad? How can this sadness be overcome?

Men fail to understand themselves. They are always threatening themselves with death. When they do not understand themselves they become sad. A long silence might interrupt this sadness and make them good.

QUESTIONS FOR PRACTICE

C. *"What I want should not be confused
With total inactivity
Life is what it is about
I want no truck with death."*

1. What is the desire of the poet?

2. What does 'total inactivity' imply?

3. Why does the poet say that he does not want his wish to be confused with total inactivity?

4. Explain-'I want no truck with death'.

2. SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS FOR PRACTICE

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1. Why shouldn't we speak any language and move our arms so much?

2. How does the poet distinguish 'stillness' from 'total inactivity'? Explain.

3. "I want no truck with death." Explain.

4. What are the various wars mentioned? What is the result of these wars?

5. What would be the result of quietude?

6. What is the 'exotic moment' mentioned in the poem and how can we achieve it?

7. According to the poet, why should not we speak in any language?

8. What has man single-mindedly focused on and to what effect?