



Poem 4

A THING OF BEAUTY

- John Keats

THEME: Nature is an endless treasure of beauty and perpetual source of joy.**Main Points**

- (1) Based on a Greek legend, the poem is an excerpt from 'Endymion'
- (2) According to the poet a beautiful thing is a constant source of joy. Its loveliness only increases.
- (3) It gives sweet dreams and peaceful sleep, fine breathing and good health. Hence a boon to all.
- (4) We are surrounded by jealousy and disappointment.
- (5) The ignoble qualities make our life gloomy and miserable resulting in suffering and pain.
- (6) A thing of beauty removes the gloom (sadness) from our spirits.
- (7) The sight of nature such as- clear streams of water, daffodils (a flower), musk-rose and forest thickets -make our lives sweet, soothing and happy
- (8) This beauty its also experienced in grandeur of the dooms that we have imagined for our powerful dead forefathers - Doom-refers to the ruins of the great deeds of the legendary heroes.
- (9) Lovelier than lovely tales, the incessant beauty of nature is pouring unto us like an immortal drink through an endless fountain from the heaven meaning that nature's beauty acts as an elixir for humanity.

Major Features:

Rhyme Scheme: aa bb cc

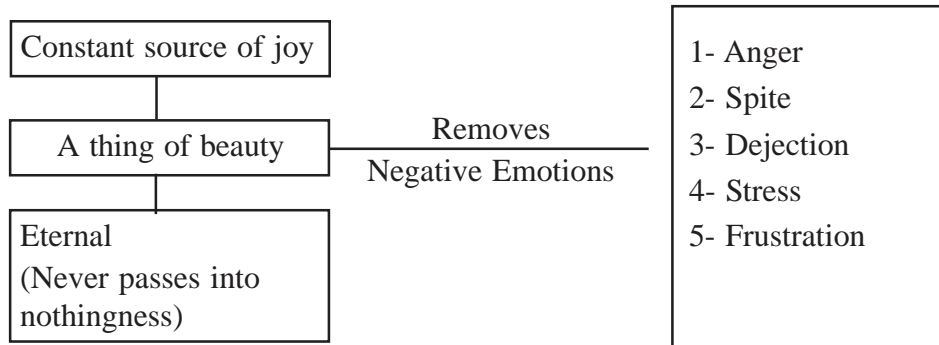
Alliteration: noble natures

some shape

cooling covert

Metaphor: Heaven's brink

Images and Symbols: All the senses are involved--- bower, flowery band, the sun, the moon
Trees old and young, green world, musk-rose etc.



**Extracts -1****Stanza -1**

Therefore, on every morrow, are we wreathing

A flowery band to bind us to the earth,

Spite of despondence, of the inhuman dearth of noble natures, of the gloomy days of all the unhealthy and over-darkened ways.

- Q. (i) What do we wreath on every morrow ?
 (ii) Why do we wreath it?
 (iii) What do you understand by the inhuman dearth of noble nature?
 (iv) What is the poetic device used in 'noble natures'?

- Ans (i) A flowery band
 (ii) To connect with nature
 (iii) Lack of great human qualities of head and heart
 eg. Compassion, patience, love, generosity etc.
 (iv) Alliteration

Extract-2

.Rich with a sprinkling of fair musk-rose blooms;

.And such too is the grandeur of dooms;

.We have imagined for the mighty dead;

.All lovely tales that we have heard or read;

.An endless fountain of immortal drink,

.Pouring unto us from the heaven's drink.

- Q. (i) What is rich with a sprinkling of fair musk-rose?
 (ii) What is the meaning of grandeur?
 (iii) What is lovelier than a lovely tale?
 (iv) What does come to us from the heaven's brink?

- Ans (i) The forest and nature
 (ii) Glorious, magnificent
 (iii) Inspiring stories of legendary heroes.
 (iv) An endless fountain of immortal drink of nature.

Some Other Questions:

- 1- What, according to the poet, removes the pall of gloom?
- 2- What is grandeur associated with mighty dead?
- 3- Why does a thing of beauty not pass into nothingness?