

## POETRY

### 1. Goodbye Party for Miss Pushpa T S

- Nissim Ezekiel

⌘ ANNOTATE the following in about 100 words each.

- a) we are meeting today  
to wish her bon voyage. (Or)
- b) I don't mean only external sweetness  
but internal sweetness.

**Reference:** These lines are taken from the satirical and humourous poem "Goodbye Party for Miss Pushpa TS," written by "Nissim Ezekiel". He was educated in Mumbai and London. He is a versatile and foremost Indian poet. His poems represent Indian modern urban life, human relationships and values, love, humour and wit.

**Context:** The poem narrates an incident when Miss Pushpa is supposed to leave India, her colleagues arrange a "Goodbye Party" for her. It is a formal farewell speech given by one of her colleagues to wish her a happy journey.

**Meaning:** The speaker says that Miss Pushpa is the daughter of a famous advocate from Surat. She is a sweet smiling lady and smiles even without a reason. So, the speaker praises her readiness and her pleasing smile. He appreciates her as a disciplined and hard working employee. She always looks cheerful and never says '**no**' to anyone to do any kind of work. She feels that '**helping to humanity is serving to God.**' The speaker says that she is beautiful not only because of her charms but of her outer pleasing personality. The speaker boast's of her heling qualities and her consern for friends. Thus the poem has all the qualities to consider it a farewell address.

**Critical Comment:** The poem is a parody of English as used by some Indians. It has no rhymes or rhythm. It offers a Satirical look at how some semi educated people in India speak '**Babu**' English. It looks simple, clear but pregnant with full of humour.

- c) That is showing  
good spirit. I am always  
appreciating the good spirit. (Or)
- d) Pushpa Miss is never saying no.  
Whatever I or anybody is asking  
she is always saying yes.

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**Context:** The poem narrates an incident when Miss Pushpa is supposed to leave India, her colleagues arrange a "Goodbye Party" for her. It is a formal farewell speech given by one of her colleagues to wish her a happy journey.

**Meaning:** The speaker says that Miss Pushpa is the daughter of a famous advocate from Surat. She is a sweet smiling lady and smiles even without a reason. She is described as popular, helpful, and being always in good spirits. She always looks cheerful and never says '**no**' to anyone to do any kind of work. She feels that '**helping to humanity is serving to God.**' The speaker says that she is beautiful not only

because of her charms but of her outer pleasing personality. He addresses his colleagues as friends, and Miss Pushpa as sister. In the end he asks them to speak of her. Finally, he says that Miss Pushpa will conclude the party. The poem highlights the speaker's good intention. and good nature.

**Critical Comment:** The poem is a parody of English as used by some Indians. It has no rhymes or rhythm. It offers a Satirical look at how some semi educated people in India speak '**Babu**' English. It looks simple, clear but pregnant with full of humour.

☞ *Answer the following questions in about 100 words each.*

a) **Do you agree that the poem Goodbye Party for Miss Pushpa TS is a farewell address ? Justify your response. (Or)**

b) **How does the speaker describe Miss Pushpa in the poem ?**

**About the Poet :** Nissim Ezekiel was educated in Mumbai and London. He is a versatile and foremost Indian poet. His poems represent Indian modern urban life, human relationships and values, love, humour and wit.

**About the Essay :** The poem "Goodbye Party for Miss Pushpa TS" is written by Nissim Ezekiel. The poem narrates an incident when Miss Pushpa is supposed to leave India, her colleagues arrange a "Goodbye Party" for her. It is a formal farewell speech given by one of her colleagues to wish her a happy journey.

**Topic :** The speaker says that Miss Pushpa is the daughter of a famous advocate from Surat. She is a sweet smiling lady and smiles even without a reason. So, the speaker praises her readiness and her pleasing smile. He appreciates her as a disciplined and hard working employee. She always looks cheerful and never says '**no**' to anyone to do any kind of work. She feels that '**helping to humanity is serving to God.**' The speaker says that she is beautiful not only because of her charms but of her outer pleasing personality. The speaker boast's of her heling qualities and her consern for friends. Thus the poem has all the qualities to consider it a farewell address..

**Conclusion :** The poem is a parody of English as used by some Indians. It has no rhymes or rhythm. It offers a Satirical look at how some semi educated people in India speak '**Babu**' English. It looks simple, clear but pregnant with full of humour.

c) **What is the central idea of the poem Goodbye Party for Miss Pushpa T S ? (Or)**

d) **Does the poem bring out the sweetness of Miss Pushpa ? Justify your answer.**

**About the Poet :** Nissim Ezekiel was educated in Mumbai and London. He is a versatile and foremost Indian poet. His poems represent Indian modern urban life, human relationships and values, love, humour and wit.

**About the Essay :** The poem "Goodbye Party for Miss Pushpa TS" is written by Nissim Ezekiel. The poem narrates an incident when Miss Pushpa is supposed to leave India, her colleagues arrange a "Goodbye Party" for her. It is a formal farewell speech given by one of her colleagues to wish her a happy journey.

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**Conclusion :** The poem is a parody of English as used by some Indians. It has no rhymes or rhythm. It offers a Satirical look at how some semi educated people in India speak '**Babu**' English. It looks simple, clear but pregnant with full of humour.

## 2. On the Grasshopper and Cricket

- John Keats

☞ **ANNOTATE the following in about 100 words each.**

a) **The poetry of earth is never dead : (Or)**

b) **He rests at ease beneath some pleasant weed.**

**Reference:** These lines are taken from the sonnet "On the Grasshopper and Cricket," by "John Keats", a popular English Romantic Poet. His perfection of poetry was recognized by the critics rapidly after his death. As a romantic poet, he was mesmerized by the ever present symphony of nature.

**Context:** According to Keats, the singing of nature never ends though it may be summer or winter. Her merry making is not limited to spring. During hot season the Grasshopper celebrates the beauty of summer in its songs. Then, the cricket takes the responsibility of singing the glory of nature in cold and bleak winter. The music of nature on earth is always alive in any season.

**Meaning :** In the poem, the poet praises the never ending beauty of nature and poetry of earth. During the hot summer, all the singing birds become tired, take rest under the branches of shady trees. Even though they don't sing, the song of nature goes on by the grasshopper. He moves from shrub to shrub on grass meadows. He is a fun - loving and cheerful creature and never goes for delights. He keeps singing restlessly and takes rest under some pleasant weed when tired. He will carry on the duty of singing the everlasting song of nature during summers.

**Critical Comment:** Keats feels that nature is the best teacher of mankind. It seems happy and makes others also happy. He sends a message through the poem that nature remains beautiful all the time, irrespective of the seasons. In a similar way, he suggests us to be joyful and happy in all circumstances. Such attitude can help us to overcome all the obstacles in life.

c) **On a lone winter evening, when the frost**

**Has wrought a silence, from the stone there shrills**

**The Cricket's song, in warmth increasing ever, (Or)**

d) **And seems to one in drowsiness half lost;**

**The Grasshopper's among some grassy hills.**

**Reference:** These lines are taken from the sonnet "On the Grasshopper and Cricket," by "John Keats", a popular English Romantic Poet. His perfection of poetry was recognized by the critics rapidly after his death. As a romantic poet, he was mesmerized by the ever present symphony of nature.

**Context:** According to Keats, the singing of nature never ends though it may be summer or winter. Her merry making is not limited to spring. During hot season the Grasshopper celebrates the beauty of summer in its songs. Then, the cricket takes the responsibility of singing the glory of nature in cold and bleak winter. The music of nature on earth is always alive in any season.

**Meaning :** In the poem, the poet praises the never ending beauty of nature and poetry of earth. During the frosty winter days, the birds remain silent. Because frost spreads its blanket over nature. But the earth has its own way of expressing pleasure and joy. The song of a cricket breaks such silence. He sings from the stones. The song seems to be increasing the warmth every moment. People are able to hear it sitting in their houses. To a man who is feeling sleepy, the cricket's song sounds like the grasshopper's voice from the grassy hills. Thus, the nature keeps itself alive, by merry making and singing done by two tiny creatures. They continue the everlasting music irrespective of the extreme climates.

**Critical Comment:** Keats feels that nature is the best teacher of mankind. It seems happy and makes others also happy. He sends a message through the poem that nature remains beautiful all the time, irrespective of the seasons. In a similar way, he suggests us to be joyful and happy in all circumstances. Such attitude can help us to overcome all the obstacles in life.

☞ Answer the following questions in about 100 words each.

a) What is the theme of the poem **On the Grasshopper and Cricket** ? (Or)

b) According to Keats, when does one hear a cricket's song ?

**About the Poet :** "John Keats" was one of the popular English Romantic poets. His perfection of poetry was recognized by the critics rapidly after his death. As a romantic poet, he was mesmerized by the ever present symphony of nature.

**About the poem :** The poem "On the Grasshopper and Cricket" was written by "John Keats". According to Keats, the singing of nature never ends though it may be summer or winter. Her merry making is not limited to spring. During hot season the Grasshopper celebrates the beauty of summer in its songs. Then, the cricket takes the responsibility of singing the glory of nature in cold and bleak winter. The music of nature on earth is always alive in any season.

**Topic :** In the poem, the poet praises the never ending beauty of nature and poetry of earth. During the hot summer, all the singing birds become tired, take rest under the branches of shady trees. Even though they don't sing, the song of nature goes on by the grasshopper. He moves from shrub to shrub on grass meadows. He is a fun-loving and cheerful creature and never goes for delights. He keeps singing restlessly and takes rest under some pleasant weed when tired. He will carry on the duty of singing the everlasting song of nature during summers.

**Conclusion :** Keats feels that nature is the best teacher of mankind. It seems happy and makes others also happy. He sends a message through the poem that nature remains beautiful all the time, irrespective of the seasons. In a similar way, he suggests us to be joyful and happy in all circumstances. Such attitude can help us to overcome all the obstacles in life.

c) When does a grasshopper sing ? (Or)

d) Discuss the common features between the grasshopper and cricket.

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**About the poem :** The poem "On the Grasshopper and Cricket" was written by "John Keats". According to Keats, the singing of nature never ends though it may be summer or winter. Her merry making is not limited to spring. During hot season the Grasshopper celebrates the beauty of summer in its songs. Then, the cricket takes the responsibility of singing the glory of nature in cold and bleak winter. The music of nature on earth is always alive in any season.

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