

No Men Are Foreign

Important questions and answers

C1. Answer the following questions and share your responses with your partner:

1. What does the poet remind us of in the first line of the poem?

Answer: The poet reminds us that no man is a stranger and no country is a foreign country. All men are the same wherever we go, and all countries are like our own country.

2. What according to the poet, are we doing when we hate others?

Answer: According to the poet, we should remember that whenever we are told to hate our brothers, it is ourselves that we shall hate, dispossess, betray, and condemn.

3. What are the two bad effects of war? Read lines 16 to 19 and answer.

Answer: The bad effects of war are: It defiles our mother earth and pollutes our own environment.

C2) Read and discuss your responses with your partner. Then write.

1. How do you think we are all treated alike by nature?

Answer: On this earth, we all are same. There is no discrimination law of the nature. Every human being, irrespective of where he/she belongs to, gets the same sun, air and water. The nature provides its elements in equal manner to everyone to show that we all are same.

2. Read the third stanza carefully. What message does the poet want to convey to us?

Answer: The poet wants us to remember that the people from the other countries have the same eyes as we have and do the same thing as we do. The poet wants us to give and spread love. It is love that wins any evil situation and makes the foes into friends. The poet wants us not to hate but to love.

3. Do you agree with the poet that we should wage no war? How do you justify that?

Answer: Yes, all should agree with the poet. Because war gives way for hatredness only. There is no end for this so we should not wage war. The poet mentions in the following line. "To hate our brothers, it is ourselves that I shall dispossess, betray, condemn. It is the human earth that we defile. Our hells of fire and dust outrage the innocence of air that an everywhere our own."

4. Some are of the opinion that the poet might have written this poem after witnessing the bad effects of the Second World War. Mention some of the lines in the poem to support that opinion.

Answer: The opinion of people about the time of writing this poem might be true. The following lines have a reference to soldiers, war, and its evil effects:

1. Beneath all uniforms, a single body breathes
2. Remember, we who take arms against each other
3. Our hells of fire and dust outrage the innocence.

5. Briefly describe how a war spoils everything.

Answer: War gives way for more hatred and more wars. Innocent people lose their lives and property. They also lose their near and dear ones and have to lead a sorrowful life. War leaves the soldiers injured and many soldiers not only lose their lives but many lose their limbs and other parts of the body.

Extra questions and answers from 'No Men Are Foreign'

1. What does the poet emphasise by beginning and ending the poem with the same line?

Answer: When a word, phrase, clause, or sentence is repeated, the repetition is for the emphasis. The poet's intention is to drive home the truth that thinking of people of foreign countries as strangers is an unnecessary man-made barrier that should be broken.

2. What happens when war breaks out?

Answer: When we wage war and use dreadful weapons against others, we defile our own earth. The dust and smoke of guns pollute the very air we breathe.

3. What does a peaceful harvest refer to?

Answer: Peaceful harvest refers to peacetime and the prosperity one has in times of peace.

3. What are the hells of fire and dust? What do they destroy?

Answer: Hells of fire and dust are the fire, smoke, and dust from bombs and gunfire. They pollute the air which was given by God to all in pristine purity. The poet reminds us that we have no right to spoil what is commonly owned by all children of God.

4. War is the enemy of our environment. How?

Answer: When we fight a war and use dreadful weapons against others, we pollute our environment with the dust and the smoke of the guns.

5. What is the importance of treating everyone equally?

Understanding human emotions and treating all fellow humans the same way is an important factor in life. Being courteous can change our perception of life.

6. "Beneath all uniforms..." What uniforms do you think the poet is speaking about?

Answer: Uniforms could refer to the military uniform or the uniform of government employees which symbolizes the country they are from. It could also be pointing towards the traditional dress of the country which helps to differentiate between us as humans on a superficial level.

7. How does the poet suggest that all people on earth are the same?

Answer: The poet first points out the physical difference that we create by adorning different clothes and living in different countries. But beneath all those layers of clothing, the anatomical body that breathes remains the same. Each one of us feels the same range of emotions and are affected similarly by the sun and water and other physical aspects.

8. What is the poet hoping we never forget?

Answer: "Remember, no men are foreign, and no countries strange." This line appears often in the poem. The poet wants us to remember that no men in this world are different, thus the poet emphasizes the notion of global fraternity.

9. Is no men are foreign a war poem?

Answer: No men are foreign is a poem that opposes war because it explains why it is unacceptable to treat people differently based on their caste, creed, race, or religion. Everyone shares a brotherhood and is on an equal footing. The message of this poem is that killing others is useless.