

**GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL & COLLEGE, PRAYAGRAJ**  
**SESSION: 2020-2021**  
**CLASS: 9 A, B, C, D, E**  
**WORKSHEET NO. 4**  
**SUBJECT: ENGLISH LITERATURE**

**INSTRUCTIONS:**

Parents are requested to ensure that the student spends two days to read and understand the poems and thereafter answer the given questions.

**POEM: AFTER BLENHEIM – ROBERT SOUTHEY**

The students can refer to the following books to understand the poem:

1. Treasure Trove - A Collection of ICSE Poems and Short Stories for classes 9 &10.
2. Workbook Treasure Trove A Collection of ICSE Poems by Selina.
3. Workbook Treasure Trove Volume – II ; Poems ICSE by Xavier Pinto

The students can visit the following sites:

- a) <https://youtu.be/vMwYhD1xNDw>
- b) <https://youtu.be/wA1xLiz3SnE>

**Q1. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:**

It was a summer evening,  
Old Kaspar's work was done,  
And he before his cottage door  
Was sitting in the sun,  
And by him sported on the green  
His little grandchild Wilhelmine.

- a) Identify the poet and the poem.
- b) What happened on the summer evening as narrated by the poet?
- c) What conversations did Old Kaspar have with his grandchildren? What is the significance of the conversation?
- d) Where was Old Kaspar sitting? Why was he sitting there?
- e) What does the poet mean by 'sported on the green'? Who sported on the green?

**Q2. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:**

Old Kaspar took it from the boy,  
Who stood expectant by;  
And then the old man shook his head,  
And, with a natural sigh,  
“Tis some poor fellow’s skull,” said he,  
“Who fell in the great victory.

- a) Who is the boy? What did Old Kaspar take from him? Where did he find it?
- b) The boy stood ‘expectant by’. What does it mean and show?
- c) What do you understand from the shaking of head of the old man? Why did he sigh?
- d) Which ‘Great Victory’ is referred in the last lines? Who were involved in this great victory?
- e) Do you think it is a ‘great victory’? Why so?

**Q3. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:**

‘Now tell us what ‘twas all about,’  
Young Peterkin, he cries;  
And little Wilhelmine looks up  
With wonder-waiting eyes;  
‘Now tell us all about the war,  
And what they fought each other for.’

- a) Which topic is being discussed in the extract? Who were Peterkin and Wilhelmine?
- b) Whom was Peterkin questioning? What did he ask?
- c) What is meant by ‘wonder-waiting eyes’? Why did Welhelmine look up with such eyes?
- d) Who fought the battle? Was Peterkin given a satisfactory answer? Why?
- e) What does the reply show about a common man’s attitude towards war?

**Q4. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:**

‘With fire and sword the country round  
Was wasted far and wide,  
And many a childing mother then,  
And new-born baby died;  
But things like that, you know, must be  
At every famous victory.

- a) Which country is referred to in the extract? What is meant by ‘Was wasted far and wide’?
- b) What did the speaker say about the effects of the battle on his own family?
- c) What is meant by a ‘childing mother’? Why do you think the poet specifically points out that “many a childing mother .....new-born baby died”?
- d) What do the last two lines in the extract tell about the attitude of the speaker towards the events that he is narrating? What are your feelings for the speaker?
- e) By referring to the incidents in the poem, state how ‘After Blenheim’ can be said to be an anti-war poem.

**Q5. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:**

“Great praise the Duke of Marlbro’ won,  
 And our good Prince Eugene.”  
 “Why, ‘twas a very wicked thing!”  
 Said little Wilhelmine.  
 “Nay...nay...my little girl,” quoth he,  
 ‘It was a famous victory.

- a) Who are the Duke of Marlbro’ and Prince Eugene?
- b) What makes the speaker praise these people? Do you think they are praiseworthy?
- c) What does Wilhelmine think to be ‘wicked’? Why does she think so? Do you agree with her?
- d) What answer does Old Kaspar give to Wilhelmine? Why does he say so?
- e) Whose victory was it? What was the cost of the victory?

THE END