



INDIAN SCHOOL DARSAIT DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH



Subject : English	Topic : THE TREES	Worksheet .No. : 23
		Date : _____
Name of the Student : _____	Class & Division : _____	Roll Number : ____
<u>Read the extracts given below carefully and answer the questions that follow:</u>		4
(a)	<i>All night the roots work to disengage themselves from the cracks in the veranda floor. The leaves strain toward the glass small twigs stiff with exertion long-cramped boughs shuffling under the roof like newly discharged patients half-dazed, moving to the clinic doors.</i>	
	<p>(a) Why do the roots work all night? The roots work all night so that they can free themselves from the walls put around them by humans.</p> <p>(b) Why do the twigs get stiff? The twigs get stiff due to the pressure they apply on the glasses.</p> <p>(c) Which word mean “to get free” in the stanza? The word is ‘Disengage’.</p> <p>(d) Which poetic device has been used in the last line of the passage? ‘Simile’ has been used here using ‘like’ for comparison.</p>	
(b)	<i>I sit inside, doors open to the veranda writing long letters in which I scarcely mention the departure of the forest from the house.</i>	
	<p>(a) Find the word from the passage which means ‘hardly’. The word is scarcely.</p> <p>(b) What is she doing? She was writing long letters.</p> <p>(c) Where are the trees in the poem? The trees are inside the house in the poem.</p> <p>(d) What do you mean by veranda? Veranda means a platform with an open front built on the ground floor of a home.</p>	
<u>Answer the following questions in 30-40 words:</u>		2
i)	<p>Why are the trees moving out into the forest? Ans. In the poem, the trees are presented as a metaphor for human beings. As humans value freedom, nature can’t be subdued and controlled by man. The trees have been brought to the artificial glasshouses. The natural habitat of trees in the forest. Therefore, after a long and hard struggle, they are coming out of the artificial barriers. They are marching victoriously towards the forest which is their original habitat.</p>	
ii)	<p>Why is the poetess hopeful that the empty forest will be full of trees by the morning? Ans. The poetess is quite optimistic. The natural barriers to contain and subdue nature created by man will be broken. The trees which have been deprived of their natural habitat will struggle to free themselves from the clutches of man. The struggle of these</p>	

	trees will not go in vain. By morning, they will be marching victoriously to the forest. The forest will be full of trees by morning.	
iii)	Why is the full moon broken to pieces like a mirror in the last lines of the poem? Ans. Previously it was a peaceful night hiding the struggle that was going on silently. The moon was full. But now the full grown-up trees like oaks with their boughs spreading out all around have obstructed the sight of the moon. The full moon is fragmented and partly visible only through the top boughs and leaves of a huge oak tree.	
iv)	Describe the struggle of the roots, leaves, small twigs and long boughs to free themselves and break open the artificial barriers created by man. Ans. Every part of the confined trees rises in revolt and struggles hard to free itself. The roots struggle all night to break free from the cracks in the veranda floor. The leaves struggle to come out of the glass. Small twigs have become hard due to overwork. Long cramped boughs are trying to break open the roof and come out.	
v)	On the other hand, Adrienne Rich has been known to use trees as a metaphor for human beings; this is a recurrent image in her poetry. What new meanings emerge from the poem if you take its trees to be symbolic of this particular meaning? Ans: If trees are to be taken as a symbol for human beings, then the poem will define the efforts of humans to free themselves from the clutches of the desire to achieve everything. All the human beings are under a constant pressure of being at the top in every field. Either they are forced by their own desire of doing so or there is a constant peer pressure on them. So, the human beings will set themselves free from this race and try to live a happy and peaceful life.	
	<u>Answer the following question in 100-120 words:</u>	8
i)	The poem 'The Trees' present a conflict between man and nature. Describe the struggle of the trees and their victorious march to their natural habitat—the forest. Ans: The poem 'The Trees' is based on the universal and age-long theme — the conflict between man and nature. Nature has endowed innumerable blessings on man. However, the greed, arrogance and foolishness of man have constantly tested the patience of otherwise peaceful nature. When nature can't bear any more, it revolts and causes havoc on man in the form of storms, droughts and floods. Man's greed leads to deforestation. Forests without trees have become a curse for birds, insects and even for the sun. This disaster can't be redeemed. Any attempt to subdue and control nature will end in failure. Uprooting trees from their original habitat, the forests and confining them to artificial glasshouses will end in failure. The trees rise against the onslaughts of men and wage a long and hard struggle to liberate themselves from the bondage of man. Ultimately, they are victorious. They return to their original home where they should be. Ultimately, nature asserts itself and repulses man's attempt to exploit, subdue and tame it.	