



INDIAN SCHOOL DARSAIT DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH



Subject :English

Topic :Fire and Ice

Worksheet .No. : 3

Date : _____

Name of the Student : _____

Class &Division : _____

Roll Number : ____

S.No. **Read the following extracts and answer the questions.**

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1 . *Some say the world will end in fire*

Some say in ice.

From what I've tasted of desire

I hold with those who favour fire.

- (a) What do people think of the world?
The world will be destroyed with fire and ice.
- (b) What is the poet's opinion about the world?
The poet thinks that we should check our growing desires and love our fellow-beings.
- (c) Which two things will destroy the world?
Hatred and Desire.
- (d) What is the prediction of the people about how the world will come to an end?
Some people say that the world will come to an end in a fire while others say it will come to an end in ice.

2. *But if it had to perish twice,*

I think I know enough of hate

To say that for destruction ice

Is also great

And would suffice.

- (a) Why does the poet feel that 'ice' is also great for destruction?
Ice equates with 'hatred', which is enough to destroy the world.
- (b) What is the rhyme scheme of this stanza of the poem?
a b a b a.
- (c) The two things that the poet thinks are good enough for destruction are
Fire and ice which means 'hatred' and 'desire'
- (d) What does 'it' stand for in the first line?
'it' here stands for the world.

Short answer questions (30-40 words)

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- (a) What do you think would be enough to destroy the world? Can Fire and Ice contribute to it?
Ans. Our desires and hatred would be enough to destroy the world. According to the poet, 'fire' represents 'desire' and 'ice' represents 'hatred'. Desires like fire spread rapidly and engulf one's whole life. Similarly, 'hatred' fills life with poison.
- (b) Which two ideas about how the world will end have been mentioned in the poem? Which idea does the poet support more?
Ans. The two ideas mentioned are that the world will end in fire or in ice. Though the poet thinks both are great for destruction, yet he seems to favour the idea of the destruction of the world in a fire a little more than in ice.
- (c) According to the poet, what do 'fire' and 'ice' represent? Do you agree with him?
Ans. According to the poet, 'fire' represents desire and 'ice' represents hatred. I do agree with the poet. Desires like fire spread rapidly and engulf one's whole life. Similarly, 'hatred' fills the whole life with poison. It makes one hard-hearted and cruel.
- (d) To say that for destruction ice is also great for the poet, what does 'ice' stand for? How is it sufficient to bring destruction?
Ans. 'Ice' symbolises hatred. Hate is just as powerful as desire. While desire consumes quickly, hate can occur and linger in people's minds and hearts for years and sometimes even lifetimes. Hate consumes the hater perhaps even more than the person or group hated and it can ruin lives. Hate can, thus, be very destructive and sufficient to bring destruction.
- (e) Which age old question does the poem revolves around?
Ans. The poem revolves around the age-old question of whether the world will end in fire or in ice. This is similar to another age-old question, whether it would be preferable to freeze to death or burn to death. The poet determines that either option would achieve its purpose sufficiently well.

LONG ANSWER QUESTIONS (100-120 words)

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- i) The poem 'Fire and Ice', carries with it very deep thematic ideas. Elaborate on these darkest traits of humanity.
Ans. Frost presents the two of the darkest traits of humanity; the capacity to hate and the capacity to be consumed by lust or desire. Of the two, he points the greater of the two evils, is desire. In giving desire the foremost position with regard to the destruction of the world, Frost is providing a powerful statement on the subject of greed and jealousy, saying that above all trait of humanity that is most likely to lead to its demise. Desire represents the greatest problem that points to the cause of the war. Frost then points hatred with the same capacity to do harm. However, he lessens the relative importance of hatred but still presents it as having the ability to lead to the destruction of the world if it were to happen for a second time.

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