

Sub: English Assignment-2

LITERATURE

FIRE And ICE by ROBERT FROST

INTRODUCTION: Fire and ice is one of Robert Frost's most popular poems, was published in December 1920. It discusses the end of the world, comparing the force of fire with the emotion of desire, and ice with that of hate. Robert Frost was born on 26th March 1874 in San Francisco, United States. He was an American poet. His work was initially published in England before it was published in America. He was admired for his depiction of the rural life of New England, his command of American colloquial speech and his realistic verse portraying ordinary people in everyday situations. He died on 29th January 1963 in Boston United States.

THEME: The main theme of 'Fire and ice' is that human emotions are destructive when allowed to run unbridled. They can destroy a person morally, mentally and physically. In this poem Frost points out that humans will be the agents of their own destruction, one way or another. He seems to compare 'desire' to 'fire' and 'hate' to 'ice'. Both desire and hate are represented by physical forces that could lead to our extinction. Humans have raided the planet in attempt to satisfy their desires, we cut trees, pollute the air water and land, just to get and experience the things we want. We do this without any consideration of what effect it will have on nature. Ice symbolises the hatred that arises out of rational thinking. Humans, in their bid to know things and gain power, become so impervious to love and kindness, that they end up fighting with each other. This has been evident in the wars that have been fought throughout human history.

MESSAGE: Robert Frost wants to convey the message, that it really doesn't matter whether it is fire or ice that will destroy the world. In fact we should think about what we can do to stop it. This poem makes us think deeper about our negativity. It propels us towards introspection. We should strive to keep human values alive. We should keep our desires and hatred to check. Desire can be controlled by being satisfied and happy with what one has.

RHYMING SCHEME: abaa bcbcb

POETIC DEVICES:

1. Symbolism: Fire symbolises human desires, whereas ice stands for hatred.
2. Anaphora: The repetition of the word or phrase at the beginning of successive lines. In this poem, anaphora is used in word 'some say'.
3. Alliteration: Some say the world will end in fire.
I hold with those who favour fire.

Q 1 . Answer the following questions in 30-40 words.

- a. What are the two popular views in the society regarding the destruction of the world?
- b. What is the underlying idea of the poem?

- c. What do people think about the ending of the world?
- d. Which two ideas about how the world will end have been mentioned in the poem? Which idea does the poet support more?
- e. How will the world end twice?

Q2. Answer the following questions in 80-100 words.

- a. How does the poem depict the two contrasting ideas- Fire and Ice? Can hatred destroy us and the world?. Explain in detail.
- b. What message does the poet give to the reader?

GRAMMAR

DETERMINERS: Determiners are the words that decide or fix the meaning of a noun. Thus, determiners are words that decide limit or determine something about a noun or a pronoun that follows. They are used before nouns to answer questions like:

- Which one?
- How many?
- Who?

Determiners are not adjectives because they do not describe a noun. They simply identify or specify a noun in some way.

Read The following sentences :

1. I have a **few** pens with me.
2. She put **some** oil in the frying pan.
3. There are **many** windows in this house.

All the highlighted words determine the quantity of anything talked about in the sentence. Therefore, we call them Determiners or Quantifiers.

Some of the quantifiers are- a little, a few, any, more, much, a lot of, etc.

There are two types of Determiners :

- Indefinite Determiners : These include determiners (a, an), indefinite numerals (many, some, etc.), distributive numerals (each , either, neither, etc.) and quantity (little, enough, etc.)
- Definite Determiners : These include determiner (the), definite numerals (one, first, etc.), possessive (my, your, our, his, her, their, etc.) and demonstrative (this, that, these, those)

Q A . Fill in the blanks using appropriate determiners.

1. Waiting for (a)..... bus is (b)..... everyday experience for all of us in the cities like Delhi, Mumbai, etc. The common people travel by bus only because it is (c)..... cheapest mode of transport. People stand in (d).....queue for hours together for a bus.
2. Last month, we went to see (a)..... National Book Fair with our teacher. We bought (b)..... books. (c)..... of them were story books, while (d)..... others were of General Knowledge.

Q B. Rearrange the following words and phrases to form meaningful sentences. Underline the determiners in each sentences.

1. you / have / how much / experience / got?
2. I / a little / brought / apple juice / market / from / the
3. completely / being/ deaf / can't / anything / he / hear
4. nothing / is open / so/ it's / a public holiday
5. the few / rupees / I had / I have / spent already

WRITING

1. Write an essay on ' how people all over the world are living through the pandemic' in about 600-800 words.