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Semester II

**Poetry – I**

**Two Marks**

**Unit 1: One Day I Wrote Her Name by Edmund Spenser**

1. Who was Edmund Spenser?

Edmund Spenser was an English poet and was born in London. After Geoffrey Chaucer he was considered as the next best English poet. His best known is The Faerie Queene', an epic poem and fantastical allegory. His other famous work includes "Amoretti" and "The Shepherds Calendar".

2. Write a short note on Edmund Spenser's "Amoretti"?

"Amoretti" is a sonnet cycle written by Edmund Spenser in the 16th century. The cycle describes his courtship and eventual marriage to Elizabeth. "Amoretti” stands for "little notes of "Little cupids." and were written most likely about his wife It was first published in 1595 in London.

3. What is the theme of Edmund Spenser's Sonnet 75?

The theme of this poem by Edmund Spenser is that life is temporal. No one can live forever as death is inevitable. However eternity can be achieved through art.

4. Who is the speaker?

The speaker is a young man. He is madly in love with his lady love. He is expressive and desires to leave an everlasting impression on the mind of his lady love. He is relentless in his efforts. He finds poetry as the medium to immortalize his lady.

5. What do you think about the lady love of the speaker?

The speaker's lady love is a young and beautiful girl. She succeeds in getting undivided attention of the speaker. Yet she is a practical person. She understands the temporality of life and believes that everything dies of along with death.

6. What secret about life is revealed in this poem?

Edmund Spenser's sonnet "One Day I Wrote Her Name is a highly philosophical poem. It reveals the true nature of life. Life is short and cannot last forever. Even love will come to an end with death.

**Unit 1: Sonnet No: 18 by William Shakespeare**

1. What is the prime contribution of William Shakespeare as a poet?

William Shakespeare besides being a playwright was a poet too. He is considered as the national poet of England. His main contribution as a poet is his sonnets. He wrote 154 sonnets.

2. What are the themes of Shakespeare's sonnets?

Shakespeare wrote a collection of 154 sonnets which were published for the first time in 1609. They are considered to be among his best poetic contribution. These sonnets cover themes such as the passage of time, love, beauty and mortality.

3. Among his sonnets which one is considered as Shakespeare's best?

Shakespeare wrote a collection of 154 sonnets. Sonnet 18 often alternatively titled "Shall I compare thee to a summer's day?" is the best among them.

4. What does Sonnet 18 deal with?

Shakespeare wrote a collection of 154 sonnets. These sonnets covers themes such as the passage of time, love, beauty and mortality In the sonnet 18, the speaker compares his beloved to the summer season, and argues that his beloved is better.

5. Why does the speaker compare his lady love with summer?

The speaker considers his lady love as the most beautiful person. He compares her beauty and inherent gentleness with the summer season.

6. What according to the sp9aker is the short coming of summer season?

The speaker considers summer seasons as the best among the rest. Though it is very beautiful the problem with the season is it either is too hot or too cloudy. Besides that it is time bound and has to end.

7. How does the poet plan to immortalize his ladylove?

The poet is madly in love with his ladylove. He considered her as the most beautiful living person. He was aware of the fact that she will die someday In order to immortalize her beauty he decided to write poems for her.

**Unit 2: Go and Catch the Falling Star by John Donne**

1. What does Donne convey through his poem "Go and Catch the Falling Star?

The poem "Song: Go and catch a falling star" was written by the cherished poet, John Donne, In this satirical poem, through a series of images, he conveys his belief on the faithfulness, or rather the unfaithfulness of women.

2. What is Donne's purpose in alluding to Mermaid?

Donne alludes to ‘mermaid’ in this poem. Mermaids denote a beautiful, mythical creature. The mermaids are usually thought to be fictional. He believes that finding a woman so perfect is impossible. The other connotation of the term ‘mermaids’ are more negative as they are also symbols of death.

3. How does the allusion to Mermaid convey Donne's theme?

Mermaids have been used in literature to lead someone, usually men, to their downfall and death due to their initial innocent and alluring appearance. This connotation of mermaids goes along with Donne's theme because the line where he hears "mermaids singing" is representing of the beauty of women luring men in false hope.

4. What is "Devils foot"?

A devil's foot is a plant that, when powdered and lit on fire, creates a noxious smoke that can kill someone if inhaled. One connotation of these is that they have very unrealistic properties, which is similar to Donne's belief that faithfulness is unheard of in females.

5. List the impossible tasks that the speaker tells the readers to accomplish.

The speaker mentions a number of impossible tasks- catching a falling star or meteor, begetting a child on a mandrake root, memory of past years, finding the name of the person who clove the Devil's foot, listening to the music of the fabulous mermaids, changing human nature so as to make it indifferent to envy and jealousy or finding out the climate which would promote man's honesty.

6. What according to the speaker is impossible to find?

It is impossible to find a faithful woman. Even if a man were to travel throughout the world for ten thousand days and nights till his hair grew grey, he would not come across a faithful woman. He might have seen many wonderful scenes and sights, but he would not have seen the most wonderful sight of all-that of a true and fair woman.

7. When will the speaker be willing to undertake a pilgrimage?

The speaker is very keen on discovering a true and fair woman if there be any such in the world. If anyone tells the speaker that there is such a woman, he would go on a pilgrimage to see her. She would really deserve his admiration and worship.

**Unit 2: A Dialogue Between The Soul and Body by Andrew Marvell**

1. What is Andrew Marvell's contribution for English poetry?

Andrew Marvell was a major poet in the school of metaphysical poetry. He was a colleague and friend of Milton. His poems range from the love-song to political satires. His famous works includes "The Garden" and "To His Coy Mistress."

2. What does Andrew Marvell's poem "A dialogue between the Soul and Body" portray?

Andrew Marvell's in his poem, "A dialogue between the Soul and Body" uses intense imagery, unconventional structure, and personification to portray the Body and Soul as enemies. They represent the conflicts between human spirituality and human instinct.

3. How the Body and the Soul are typically viewed as?

The Body and Soul consider each other as enemies. They represent the conflicts between human spirituality and human instinct. Body and Soul are typically viewed as two entities that are co-dependent on one another, but they entrap and torture each other.

4. What does Andrew Marvell's poem present to reader?

Andrew Marvell's poem presents the reader with question. It makes the reader to think whether the humans are just bodies that are meant to live naturally without a Soul dictate it, or are they Souls that are trapped inside of a Body and locked in its constraints.

5. What terms does the Soul use to refer to the Body in Andrew Marvell's poem?

In Andrew Marvell's poem, "A dialogue between the Soul and Body, the Soul calls the Body as "dungeon", "vain head" “double heart", and a destroyer. It considers the Body as a tyrant which has entrapped it though its nerves, arteries and veins.

6. What terms does the Body use to refer to the Soul in Andrew Marvell's poem?

In Andrew Marvell's poem, "A dialogue between the Soul and Body, the Body calls the Soul as "tyrannical Soul, "needless frame", "ill spirit, creator of fear and madness and finally a destroyer. The Body feels that the Soul dictates it and does not allow it to live the way it wants.

7. What is the complaint of the Soul on the Body?

In Andrew Marvell's poem "A dialogue between the Soul and Body the Soul complaints against the Body, It says that the Body treats it like a slave. It feels that it has been tied by the Body through its nerves, arteries and veins. It feels entrapped and has to suffer in the Body till it dies.

8. What is the complaint of the Body on the Soul?

In Andrew Marvell's poem "A dialogue between the Soul and Body the Body complaints against the Soul. It says that like a tyrant the Soul has enslaved the Body I1 says that the Soul an unwelcome passenger on board and calls him as "needless frame”. Like an ‘ill sprit’ it has possessed the Body and is not leaving it.

9. What is the tone in Marvell's "A dialogue between the soul and the body”?

The tone of this poem is aggressive and full of despair. It is shown throughout the entire poem as the Body and Soul are unhappily combined and distress about the situation they are in it is created in their Dialogue using specific words such as ‘Tortur’d’ and ‘destroys’ .

10. What is the purpose behind employing personification in Marvell's poem?

Andrew Marvel uses personification brilliantly to develop the poem to its full extent. He personifies the Body and Soul throughout the entire poem to emphasize the conflicts between spirituality and human instinct by allowing them to speak to each other and have a debate.

11. What is the argument presented in Andrew Marvell's poem?  
 In the poem, "The Dialogue between the Body and Soul”, Andrew Marvell structures the poem in the form of a debate. The Body and the Soul are combating each other in order to express the tragedy that both of them are put through in life.

12. What causes the ultimate pain to the Body?

The Body is saying that nothing else could possibly cause this much pain and problems except a Soul. The Soul plants seeds of love or of hope in the Body. The Body then nourishes the seeds like mature nourishing seeds into trees, until the seeds mature The trees only purpose is to eventually be cut down by the Great Architect (God).

**Unit 3**: **Lycidas**

1. What is the sad occasion the speaker talks of?

The speaker's friend Lycidas had met with a tragedy. He lost his life in a tragic boat accident. His friend's death is described by the speaker as the sad occasion. It was sad indeed, as they were childhood friends and had grown up together as poets. The speaker wanted to mourn this occasion by dedicating a poem to his friend.

2. What request does the speaker make to the Muse?

The speaker wanted to write a beautiful poem to dedicate it to his late friend, Edward King. In order to get inspiration he sought the inspiration from the Muse. With the divine help, he believed he would be able to write a memorable poem.

3. How was the childhood like for the speaker and his friend Lycidas?

The speaker and Lycidas were childhood friends. They grew up in the same countryside, and tended the same flock of sheep. They both used to get up before the sun rose to take their sheep out to the fields. They spend all day out there until the sunset.

4. How does the speaker express the magnitude of loss upon his friend's death?

The speaker expresses the magnitude of the loss of his friend upon him and the nature in general. He says that not only him, but also the caves, woods, the willows and the hazel trees too are sad and remain stand still as if they were mourning the death. He compares the loss of his friend with the destruction of a beautiful rose eaten away by the canker, taint-worm that kills young calves and the frost that does not allow flowers to bloom.

5. Why is the speaker upset with the Nymphs?

The speaker was upset with the Nymphs. He wondered where the nymphs, who supposedly love Lycidas, were when he drowned in the ocean. He accuses them that they were not there when Lycidas was drowning. Had they been there, his friend Lycidas would have been alive.

6. Who are Amaryllis and Neaera?

Amaryllis is a shepherdess who appears in the work of several ancient pastoral poets. Her most notable appearance is in Virgil (in the Eclogues) and in Theocritus (in the Idylls). Neaera is a nymph often mentioned in pastoral poetry. She appears in Virgil's Eclogues and the work of several later poets. Her "tangles" of hair was a popular subject for many poets.

7. What does the speaker allude to with reference to Neaera's hair?

Neaera's hair was a popular subject for many of the poets. But the speaker considers it as an ordinary theme taken up by the poets of less substance. The Muse inspired them whereas it was not blessing the speaker. The speaker, who was grieving his friend's death, wanted to write a poem with loftier theme, He was not getting any inspiration from the Muse.

8. What is the speaker's opinion about fame?

The speaker believes that fame is fickle. He considered it as downright elusive, The speaker gives an 6xample for it According to him the moment when one thinks that he or she has finally found it, fate comes and kills them, When his friend Lycidas was about to "burst out in a sudden blaze" of fame, fate

9. How does Apollo console the speaker?

The speaker was disturbed by his friend's death, He felt that fate had snatched away his friend's life when he was about to become famous. Apollo, the Greek god, consoled the speaker, He let the speaker realize that while the "blind Fury does destroy human life, she does not destroy all the praise they get for their achievements. Fame is something that cannot be found in this mortal world. Seeking earthly fame does not have true value.

10. What was the accusation of the speaker levelled upon the ship?

The speaker was in a state of mourning due to sudden loss of his friend. He believed that Lycidas could have been alive. He blames the ship for his death due to drowning. He accused the ship of being ill-fated as it was built during the eclipse. It was "rigged with curses dark," which caused Lycidas' death.

11. Who is Sirius?

Sirius is the "swart star" or the Dog Star. According to Homer, Sirius was the canine companion of Orion, a hunter in Greek mythology. When Zeus made Orion into a constellation, he let Sirius join his human master in the stars. Sirius, the star, is associated with extreme heat and sometimes a lack of fertility.

12. What did the speaker hope for from the dolphins?

The sailors often considered the sight of dolphins was a good omen. It meant that land was somewhere nearby and if they needed any kind of help, they would get it. Besides that, they are considered as friends of people in distress. Like the sailors, the speaker also pinned his hopes on the dolphins. He hoped that some dolphin might bring Lycidas' body safely home.

13. How does the speaker console his fellow shepherds?

The speaker after consoling himself, consoles his fellow shepherds too. He tells them to stop weeping because Lycidas was not really dead. He says that like the sun that appears to sink into the ocean in the west, but rises the next day, hopefully Lycidas too will rise again.

**Unit 4:Go and Catch A Falling Star**

1. Write a brief note on the background behind the composition of Dryden's 'A Song for St. Cecilia's Day life.

'A Song for St. Cecilia's Day', composed in 1687, is the first of two great odes written by poet laureate John Dryden was written for the annual St. Cecilia's Day celebration that was held every November 22 from 1683 to 1703. It was sponsored by the London Musical Society.

2. Who is St. Cecilia?

Saint Cecilia is the patroness of musicians. It is written that as the musicians played at her wedding she "sang in her heart to the Lord". Her feast day is celebrated in the Latin Catholic, Eastern Catholic, Anglican, and Eastern Orthodox

3. What does the poet mean by "heavenly harmony"?

The poet uses the term "heavenly harmony" to refer to the music of the spheres. The earth was surrounded (framed) by spheres. The moon was in the innermost, and each sphere held another planet until the outer sphere held the stars. The angels moved these spheres with their singing

4. How life came into existence in Earth?

The life on earth began with the divine music. It was music that brought the nature in to existence. It waited for the call from the God from heaven, the call finally came. It called upon Earth to come alive. Upon His command life began on the Earth. Such was the power of music that one by one different forms of life came into existence. Man was the last of its creation,

5. Who is Jubal? What was the special about his music?

Jubal, the father of Music, was a passionate musician. When he played music with his "corded shell", those listening to him would stand still. They would listen to it with utter reverence and feel the divine force in it. Such was the power of his music.

4. How does music control man's emotion?

Music can soothe a soul and besides that has power to wake their emotions too. The clangour of a trumpet encourages the feelings of anger and braveness in the hearts of the human beings. The sound of the drums motivates man to fight against his enemies. It stirs them to be courageous and face their enemies.

7. How does music come to the aid of hopeless lovers?

Music has the power to activate sorrow for the unrequited love: The complaining flute in dying notes discovers the woes of hopeless lovers, in other words, music understands and can reflect the most refined feelings of hopeless lovers. The lovers' emotions get life through music.

8. How did Orpheus prove the power of music?

Orpheus was a legendary musician, poet, and prophet in ancient Greek religion and myth. He had the ability to charm all living things and even stones with his music. He convinced the God of the underworld to bring back his Eurydice just by playing a song on his lyre.

9. What made St. Cecilia's music superior to that of Orpheus?

Orpheus had convinced the God of the underworld to bring back his Eurydice just by playing a song on his lyre. St. Cecilia was much braver and had performed a much greater miracle by attracting an angel who mistook earth for heaven by listening to her music. She is in fact greater and more amazing than Orpheus because she incites us to Christianity.

10. What is the prophecy that Dryden makes in the Grand Chorus?

The last stanza of the poem is referred to as the "Grand chorus", in which Dryden makes a prophecy. The celestial bodies or spheres have been put into motion by the harmony that ordered the universe, so the universe was created from the power of this musical harmony. Likewise, the universe will cease to exist when the harmony also ceases to exist.

**Unit 4: Ode on Solitude**

1. What does Alexander Pope's 'Ode on Solitude' deal with?

‘Ode on Solitude’ which was alternately titled ‘The Quiet Life’ was written by Alexander Pope to celebrate the virtues of a happy and satisfied life. In this poem, he discusses the characteristics of a happy life which are satisfaction, self- sufficiency and piety.

2. What does Alexander Pope present in his 'Ode on Solitude'?

Alexander Pope in his 'Ode on Solitude' discusses the characteristics of a happy life which are satisfaction, self- sufficiency and piety. Man was the fittest subject for his poetry. In an imaginative treatment, he illuminates the knowledge about man, in relation to individuals, society and the Universe.

3. What are the characteristic features of the happy man?

The happy man is satisfied with what he is having at present. He is not interested in increasing his landed properties. His wish and care are bound within the few acres of land given to him by his ancestors. He is content to breathe his native air in his own ground.

4. How is the needs of the happy man get fulfilled?

The happy man was not depending on others for food, clothes or drinks. His herds supplied him with milk and his flocks of black sheep got him wool for making his attire. He got his bread by cultivating in his own fields. The trees in his homestead yielded him cool shade in summer and enough firewood to burn in winter,

5. What made the happy man bleased?

The happy man could watch the passing of time without anxiety which made him a blessed person. Hours, days and years slide soft away as if a sledge is sliding over the snow. Time progresses in a straight line and no point in it will ever be repeated

6. How was the happy man able to get sound sleep?

The happy man was busy throughout the day. His daytime activities did not leave room for horror-filled dreams during nights. This helped him to get sound sleep, something that the speaker "craved for.

7. What is the speaker's wish?

Like a truly happy man, the poet wishes to live unseen and unknown like a nonentity, and die unlamented. He wishes to withdraw stealthily from this world and pleads that not a stone be placed over his grave to tell the worried where he lies. He wishes perfect, undisturbed Solitude.

**Unit 5: The Village Preacher**

1. Who was Oliver Goldsmith?

Oliver Goldsmith was an Irish novelist, playwright and poet, who is best known for his novel 'The Vicar of Wakefield', his pastoral poem 'The Deserted Village', and his plays 'The Good-Natur'd Man' and 'She Stoops to Conquer'.

2. What is the theme of the poem 'The Village Preacher'?

Oliver Goldsmith's poem 'The Village Preacher' deals with the theme of love and care of fellow beings. The true service of God lies in the welfare of the people. It is possible to focus on God in spite of being surrounded by human bondage.

3. Who instilled hope of deceased soul?

The deceased souls were comforted by the village preacher. While the sick waited for his impending deaths, the preacher stood by him. His presence and his words soothed the dying soul. It gave him relief and gave him strength to praise the lord.

5. What was the special ability of the village preacher?

When the village preacher addressed the gathering at the church, his words were magical. Even those who came there to trouble the proceedings would forget their bad intention and would join prayers sincerely

6. Why did the villagers like 1the preacher?

The preacher had a spiritual connection with the villagers. They, including the young ones, would get mesmerized and show their affection to him. The preacher was like a parent to them and expressed his warmth and love to them.

7.What was the preacher worried about?

The preacher was like a parent to the villagers. He would express his warmth and love to them; He was equally concerned about the welfare of these children and worried about their problems. Thus the preacher's concerns revolved around these villagers.

8. To whom was the preacher truly devoted to?

In spite of being so deeply involved over the welfare of the villagers, the preacher's thoughts however were focused towards the service of the Lord. The village preacher though was amongst the human bondage, was still unaffected and was sincere in the service of the Lord.

**Unit 5: The Lamb**

1. What does Blake's poem 'The Lamb' deals with?

William Blake's poem 'The Lamb' deals with the theme of creator and his creations. The speaker explores in his simple language of childhood innocence how the creator of the lamb who is also the creator of the child is both a child and a lamb.

2. What is the theme of Blake's poem 'The Lamb'?

William Blake's 'The Lamb' intends to praise the Lord for creating such a beautiful world and the virtuous creatures within it. He also uses it to celebrate and honour Jesus for coming to the Earth to sacrifice Himself for all mankind.

3. Who is the speaker in Blake's poem 'The Lamb' and what does he want to know?

The speaker identifies himself as a child. He asks a series of questions to a little lamb, and then answers the questions. He wanted to know if the lamb knew who made it, who provides it food to eat, or who gives it warm wool and a pleasant voice

4. What makes Blake's poem 'The Lamb' a religious poem?

The Lamb' is one of Blake's most strongly religious poems. It takes the pastoral life of the lamb and fuses it with the Biblical symbolism of Jesus Christ as the "Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

5. How does the speaker describe the lamb?

The speaker describes the lamb as pure, innocent and associates it with Christ. It has been blessed with life and with capacity to drink from the stream and feed from the meadow. It was been allotted with bright, soft and warm wool which serves as its clothing.

6. What makes the poet compare the child with Jesus Christ?

The child too like the lamb is innocent and free from the corruption. Christ was also a child when he first appeared on this earth as the son of God. This makes Blake to compare the child with Jesus Christ.

7. What are the gifts that God has bestowed upon the lamb?

God gifted the lamb with the "clothing of delight", soft and 'woolly' clothing and a tender voice that makes all the values rejoice. Besides, God has given the lamb the feet so that it could find food and feed itself by the stream and over the meadow.

8. Why did Blake structure 'The Lamb' in the form of a hymn?

Blake's 'The Lamb' is structured in the form of a hymn. By structuring the poem in a hymn like manner it enforces the idea that this lamb is indeed a 'Godlike' and pure creature.

**Essay:**

**Unit 1-"One Day I Wrote Her Name" - Edmund Spenser**

**1. Write a detailed summary of Edmund Spenser's "One Day I Wrote Her Name".**

**Introduction:**

Edmund Spenser wrote a sequence of sonnets entitled Amoretti, of which Sonnet 75 is a part. Also titled One Day Wrote Her Name upon the Strand, Edmund Spenser weaves at ale about the ocean, love and immortality

**Summary:**

This sonnet seems to be about the author's attempts to immortalize his wife or the love of his life. Spenser starts the poem with a quatrain recalling an incident that could have happened any summer day at the seaside. He writes his love's name in the sand at the beach, but the ocean's waves wipe it away, just as time will destroy all manmade things. The next quatrain describes the woman's reaction to the man's charming tempt to immortalize her. She claims that the man's attempts were in vain and that no mortal being can be immortalized due to the cruelness of time. The next quatrain represents a turning point in the poem and the author reveals that his wife will be eternally remembered in his poems and his verse. The final couplet at the end, "Where whenas Death shall all the world subdue, Out love shall live, and later life renew," summarizes the theme of the poem by comparing the eternalness of love and death to the brevity of life and humanity. Spenser uses the rhyme scheme of this poem to create a contrast between earthly ideas and objects that will eventually be destroyed and heavenly ones that will last forever. The first two quatrains focus on the author's vain attempts to write his wife's name. Time and nature are shown to destroy the author's manmade works and his attempts are thwarted. The author then switches gears and shows how he immortalized his wife in the very poem he is writing. Spenser uses a very melodic rhythm and iambic pentameter to create a calm and pleasant sounding poem. His frequent use of alliteration such as, "die in dust" and, "verse in virtue" helps to paint the complete picture of the poem and tie the themes of the poem together.

**Unit 1-Sonnet 18 - Shakespeare**

**2. Write a detailed summary of Shakespeare's Sonnet 18.**

**Introduction:**

One of the best known of Shakespeare's sonnets, Sonnet 18 is memorable for the skilful and varied presentation of subject matter, in which the poet's feelings reach a level of rapture unseen in the previous sonnets. The poet here abandons his quest for the youth to have a child, and instead glories in the youth's beauty.

**Comparison of Lady Love to a Summers Day:**

Shakespeare's "Sonnet 18" begins by comparing the narrator's beloved to a summer day, using phrases like, "more lively and more temperate" to describe her beauty and temperament. As the metaphor continues, the narrator discusses the potential flaws in summer, such as its short length, its heat, and the fact that its beauty is sometimes dulled by bad weather.

**Superiority of the Lady Love:**

Though these lines seem to focus only on the summer but it is evident that a comparison is being drawn between the narrator's beloved and the summer. After addressing the season's flaws, the narrator returns to his beloved in line 9, where the subject of the poem is again viewed as better than summer through the words, "But thy eternal summer shall not fade. Though summer days are lovely, the narrator makes it clear that his beloved is better, going on to say that her beauty, unlike summer's beauty, will never fade thanks to his capturing it in his poetry. He ends with the idea that as long as his poetry is read, the subject's beauty will never fade.

**Conclusion:**

The poem begins with the expectation that it will discuss the narrator's love's beauty or youth by thinking about it in comparison to a summer day. While that does happen, summer instead becomes a flawed thing that the poem's subject far outshines. The subject of the poem is immortalized in Shakespeare's sonnet, granting them eternal life, beauty, and youth that summer does not have.

**Unit 2-Go and Catch A Falling Star - John Donne**

**Write a detailed summary of John Donne's "Go and catch a falling star".**

**Introduction:**

John Donne was an English poet and a cleric in the arch of England. He is considered the pre-eminent representative of the metaphysical poets. His poem, "Song: Go, A Catch a Falling Star", is a metaphysical conceit of the naturally small frequency of fair and virtuous women in the odd. Falling stars are a cause of great destruction and hence the poet compares a falling star to the nature of women, He chows that the nature of a woman is similar to a star; both are destructive and will cause damage.

**The Challenge:**

In the first stanza Donne states a number of impossible tasks. He compares finding an honest woman to these tasks. He cleverly states that to find a woman who is honest in love is as difficult as it is to catch 'a falling star', The impossible tasks also include conceiving a child with a mandrake plant, gaining full knowledge of the past, solving the mystery of the Devil's cloven hoof and learning the knack of hearing mermaids singing. In a sarcastic comment Donne says that finding an honest woman is as difficult as living without the pain of envy. Envy is the greed and lust of other people who would secretly long for his woman. He adds sarcastically to the list of impossible tasks the task of finding the wind that brings prosperity to those who are of honest mind, He means that only dishonest people do well, that to have an honest mind is to fail.

**The Search:**

In the second stanza the subject matter is an imaginary journey of ten thousand days. Donne imagines a seeker spending a lifetime, until he has grey hairs, looking for an honest woman. Donne believes that despite all the strange sights the traveller sees, he won't come across an honest woman.

**The Pilgrimage:**

In the third stanza the thought changes to the more positive idea of finding an honest woman. If the traveller finds one, he is to report her immediately. Donne says such a journey. 'Pilgrimage', would be 'sweet'. But then Donne changes his mind and says he wouldn't travel next door to meet her as by the time he arrives even that far she will have slept with two or three other men. He says a woman would only remain honest at most for as long as it takes to write the letter saying you have found her.

**Unit 2-A Dialogue between the Soul and Body - Andrew Marvell**

**Write a detailed summary of Andrew Marvell's "A dialogue between the Soul and Body".**

**Introduction:**

In the poem, "The Dialogue between the Body and Soul," Andrew Marvell structures the poem in the form of a debate. The Body and the Soul are combating each other in order to express the tragedy that both of them are put through in life. The Body and Soul are shown as two different outlooks on life. The structure of the argument is set up with ten lines for the first three stanzas, but Marvell gives the Body the last word with a fourteen line stanza at the end. The poem explores the polar opposites that people must deal with like the body and soul, faith and reason, science and religion, man and nature.

**Soul's Argument**:

The Soul begins the argument by protesting that this Body is a "dungeon" in which has "enslaved" it. The Soul talks about the devastation and degradation involved with being confined to the physical realm. The Soul has a metaphysical nature that is on a different level from the Body. The Body has a similar complaint for the Soul when he begins by asking, "O, who shall me deliver whole from bonds of this tyrannical soul?" Both the Body and the Soul are deeply troubled by the fact that hey cannot control their devastating situation. The Soul is on higher level than the Body, and the Soul is "blinded with an eye"or the Body, The Soul has a purer eye than the Body because the Body's eye is corrupted.

**Body's Defence:**

The Body strikes back by accusing the Soul of having no purpose except to separate man from animal. The Body professes that the Soul only "Warms and moves his needless frame": The Soul has the power to influence the Body by giving it love, hate, sadness, and happiness. The Body always thinks its right because it chooses reason over faith. The Soul can affect the Body's heart not only emotionally but also physically. When someone is very sad, he or she can feel the burden of the sadness on their chest like a weight being placed on the heart. The Body is put through pain by the Soul, but the Soul will live on after the Body.

**Soul's Counter Defence:**

The Soul knows nothing of the physical pain because it can only feel the pain of mental and spiritual anguish. The Soul describes at the same time being taken advantage of by the Body because the Soul is used by the Body in order to cure the problems of the Body. The Soul knows that the Body's resistance and existence is a minor part of the Soul's life. The Soul endures beyond the Body. The Soul describes the futile task of serving the Body by saying, "And all my care itself employs, / that to preserve which me destroys".

**Body's Closing Argument:**

The last stanza delivers a much more hopeless sorrow for the Body. The ills of the Soul will not cease to give the Body its purpose. Purpose is associated with love in the last stanza. But the Body is tormented by the pursuit of love. Love fills the Body with "hope" but at the same time, the Body is tormented by "the palsy shakes of fear" The Body fears being hurt by the Soul again, and therefore, is bitter to opening up to love. The bitterness is described as "hatred's hidden ulcer [that] eat [s)" away at the initial trusting love that the Body once had.

**Conclusion:**

The poem does not provide any solution to the problem; it compels the reader to contemplate and be torn between the two characteristics of human life.

**Unit 3-Lycidas – Milton**

**Write a brief summary of Milton's Lycidas.**

**Introduction:**

'Lycidas' by John Milton is a shorter poem unlike his Paradise Lost and a few others. It was composed on the Occasions of death of his close friend Edward King. Edward King drowned while travelling in a ship. His sudden demise was a huge shock for Milton. Lycidas is a pastoral elegy.

**The Beginning:**

The poem begins in a classical style. Comparing them to fruit-bearing vines, Milton invokes the Muses in the poem's first two stanzas. The invocation begins with his remembrance of time spent at school with his friend, for whose passing this idyll is meant to be 'some melodious tear.' Quickly following this brief recollection, Milton conjures the image of blighted flowers to represent the untimely passing of his schoolmate.

**The Dilemma:**

Milton's friend was also apparently a poet. Milton spends the next two stanzas questioning how the art of poetry, symbolized by Nymphs and Muses, could have possibly saved his friend from his fate. Milton insists that the real, enduring 'Fame' is that which comes through recognition of one's good life in Heaven. Seeing as how his friend was drowned at sea, Milton next ties in references to ancient rivers to the 'testimony' of the Roman sea-god Neptune, Neptune claims no responsibility for the loss and instead blames it on the time of construction of the friend's ship. Milton shifts gears at this point in the poem, but maintains the water imagery to bridge the subject matter. By mentioning St. Peter, Milton launches into an allegorical description of the Catholic Church and the empty spiritual promises it holds for its congregations,

**Acceptance of the Tragedy:**

Milton quickly returns to the task of mourning his lost friend. He implores flowers associated with mourning or seemingly decked in funeral attire to decorate his friend's funerary procession. Using an allegory of sunset over water, Milton asserts that, like the next day's sunrise, his drowned friend will be renewed through his true faith in Christ. Since Lycidas is headed to a better afterlife, the poem's closing lines call for an end to lamentation. Milton ends his work with a reprisal of the allegory in which the fiery orb has found 'Pastures new.'

**Unit 4-A Song for S.Cecilia's Day - Dryden**

**Write a detailed summary of Dryden's 'A Song for S.Cecilia's Day.**

**Introduction:**

John Dryden was an English poet, literary critic, translator playwright and England's first Poet Laureate. 'A Song for St Cecilia's Day', composed in 1687, is the first of two great odes written by poet laureate John Dryden and set to music for the annual St. Cecilia's Day celebration.

**Genesis:**

The life on earth began with the divine music. It was music that brought the nature in to existence. It waited for the call from the God from heaven. Upon His command life began on the Earth. Such was the power of music that one by one different forms of life came into existence. Man was the last of its creation.

**The Power of Music:**

Music has great power. There is nothing that Music cannot achieve. Jubal, the father of Music, was a passionate musician. When he played music with his "corded shell", those listening to him would stand still. They would listen to it with utter reverence and feel the divine force in it. Such was the power of music. Music, if can soothe a soul, has power to wake their emotions too. The clangour of a trumpet encourages the feelings of anger and braveness in the hearts of the human beings. The sound of the drums that motivates a man to fight against his enemies. It stirs them to be courageous and face their enemies. Music has the power to activate sorrow for the unrequited love. The complaining flute in dying notes discovers the woes of hopeless lovers, in other words, music understands and can motions get life through music. It reveals their inner moods, e pain they undergo and their love for the lady who does not bother about them. Music not only evokes religious awe, anger, courage and not only understands the woes of hopeless lovers, it can also induce jealousy reflect the most refined feelings of hopeless lovers. The lovers' Music can also be used as a form of praise or worship. The organ represents holy love, it is the instrument that is used in church and thus it also used to convey Christianity. Orpheus had convinced the God of the underworld to bring back his Eurydice just by playing a song on his lyre. St. Cecilia was much braver and had performed a much greater miracle by attracting an angel who mistook earth for heaven by listening to her music. She is in fact greater and more amazing than Orpheus because she incites us to Christianity.

**Conclusion:**

The celestial bodies or spheres have been put into motion by the harmony that ordered the universe, so the universe was created from the power of this musical harmony. Likewise, the universe will cease to exist when the harmony also ceases to exist. The celestial bodies or spheres have been put into motion by the harmony that ordered the universe, so the universe was created from the power of this musical harmony. Likewise, the universe will cease to exist when the harmony also ceases to exist.

**Unit 4-Ode on Solitude - Alexander Pope**

**Write a detailed summary of Alexander Pope's 'Ode on Solitude'.**

**Introduction:**

Ode on Solitude, which was alternately titled The Quiet nothing native Life, was written by Alexander Pope to celebrate the virtues of a happy and satisfied life. Pope wrote this poem before he was come twelve years old. It is his earliest poem which still survives. In "truly this poem, he discusses the characteristics of a happy life which are satisfaction, self-sufficiency and piety.

**Analogy of a Happy Man:**

The poem begins with an analogy. The speaker, an anonymous man, describes the life of a farmer. He sees him as being an ideal for happiness. This farmer's deepest desires very extend to a few acres of his own land, where he is content to live and work. He is content with what he has.

**A Content Man:**

The man is self-sufficient. His land, now shown to be farm, provides for all of his needs; his herds provide him with milk and wool. He is able to bake his own bread. In the summer. his trees provide ample shade, and in the winter the wood from those same trees can be lit to keep him warm, He has no need of anything beyond his own land.

**The Blessed Soul:**

This farmer is blessed. Time almost doesn't have meaning for this man. His world provides for all of his needs. Hours go by, days go by, years go by, and everything remains the same. The health the man is in at the beginning of this cycle is the health he remains in when it is finished. Peace of mind is normal for him and there is nothing to trouble him. His days are stress-free and therefore have an undisturbed sleep at night. He leads a simple and easy life. He can read or study when he is not relaxing in other ways. Sometimes he can just sit quietly and ponder. The Speaker's Desire: After witnessing the blessed life of the farmer, the speaker too desires to live that way. When he dies he hopes that no-one would be too sad about that. He does not even want his grave marked with a gravestone. He wants to be as quiet and invisible as he was when he was alive.

**Conclusion:**

The poet thus presents the fact about life which is highly relevant today. Man keeps running behind materialistic things and forgets to live his life. Finding happiness in simple things in life can make it worth living upon them.

**Unit 5-The Village Preacher - Oliver Goldsmith**

**Write a detailed summary of the poem, ‘The Village Preacher'**.

**Introduction:**

"The Village Preacher' is part of a long poem by Oliver Goldsmith entitled The Deserted Village' which was published in 1770, It is a work of social commentary, and condemns rural depopulation and the pursuit of excessive wealth. The location of the poem's deserted village is unknown.

**The Deceased Soul:**

The poem begins in a room where the village preacher is shown attending a sick man. The sick person was lying on the bed waiting for his impending death. He was filled with sorrow sin guilt and pain. The preacher, who was revered by all, stood by hìm and offering prayers for his soul. His presence and his words soothed the dying soul. It gave him relief and gave him strength ul to praise and face the Lord.

**The Preacher and His Power:**

When the preacher was at the church, he was very subdued and yet his presence and his looks added grace to the holy place. When he addressed the gathering at the church, his of words were magical. Even those who came there to trouble would forget their bad intentions and would join prayers sincerely. Such was the power of this village preacher.

**Love and Warmth of the Parishioners:**

The preacher was loved both by all and especially by the kids. As the church service continued, the villagers would gather around the pious preacher. Even the young ones would get mesmerized and show their affection to him. The preacher, like a parent, would immediately express his warmth and love to them. He was equally concerned about the welfare of these children and worried about their problems. Thus the preacher's concerns revolved around these villagers.

**Service of God:**

In spite of being so deeply involved his thoughts however were focused towards the service of the Lord. Like a storm that takes it grasp over the valley but does not have much of impact on the huge mountain, similarly the village preacher though was amongst the human bondage, was still unaffected and was sincere in the service of the Lord.

**Unit 5-The Lamb - William Blake**

**Write a detailed summary of William Blake's ‘The Lamb’.**

**Introduction:**

"The Lamb" is one of the simplest poems of Blake, It has a significant position in the "Songs of Innocence". This poem represents a theme of Innocence, a theme that resonates throughout the poem. The gentle and sweet tone of the poem reflects a sense of childhood innocence, where there is wonderment and pure inquiry.

**The Question:**

In the first stanza, the child is speaking to the lamb and it gives a brief description of the little animal as he sees it. The lamb has been blessed with a life to feed by the stream and over the meadow. The lamb has also been endowed with bright and soft wool which serves as its clothing. Its tender voice fills the valley with joy. Thus we see a true portrait of a lamb.

**The Answer:**

In the second stanza, the poet identifies the lamb, Christ and the child. Lamb is one of the names of Christ. Christ is as meek and mild as a lamb. Christ was also a child when He first appeared on this earth as the son of God. He became a little child, la child, and thou a lamb, who are called by His name. The child in this poem speaks to the lamb as if it was another child. The child was extremely joyous in the company of the lamb because it was meek and mild like him.

**Conclusion:**

The poem seeks to provide an answer to the question of “who made thee." The answer provided is that a merciful and benevolent God created the lamb and its sense of purity. The speaker seeks to share in the same childhood innocence and life force that emanates in the lamb.