

NCERT QUESTIONS WITH SOLUTIONS

Thinking About the Poem

1. What does the young man mean by “great honey-coloured/Ramparts at your ear”? Why does he say that young men are “thrown into despair” by them?

Ans. By this the young man means that she has beautiful golden hair which surround the outer wall of her ear. It refers to the girl’s beautiful yellow hair which falls till her ears. The hair covers her ears like the high, wide walls which surround a castle. He says that young men are ‘thrown into despair’ by them because the lady wants them to love her interior and not the exterior. The beauty of the girl’s hair is so distracting that the young man just by looking at it, fall in love with her.

2. What colour is the young woman’s hair? What does she say she can change it to? Why would she want to do so?

Ans. Honey-coloured or yellow is the young woman’s hair. She says she can change it to brown or black or carrot. She would want to do so because the young man in despair may love her for herself alone. She wants to change the colour as the poet told her that young man will love her for her hair, her beauty and not for the person she is. She does not want this to happen. She wants to be loved for her inner beauty and not for physical attributes.

3. Objects have qualities which make them desirable to others. Can you think of some objects (a car, a phone, a dress ...) and say what qualities make one object more desirable than another? Imagine you were trying to sell an object : what qualities would you emphasise?

Ans. Of course, qualities make the objects desirable to others. Qualities of durability, cheapness, modernity, easy-handling, low-maintenance etc. make one object more desirable than another. Suppose I’m selling a dress. I would like to emphasise on its charming colour, simple, sober but attractive design, economic price, durability and so on.

4. What about people? Do we love others because we like their qualities, whether physical or mental? Or is it possible to love someone “for themselves alone”? Are some people ‘more lovable’ than others? Discuss this question in pairs or in groups, considering points like the following.

- (i) a parent or caregiver’s love for a new-born baby, for a mentally or physically challenged child, for a clever child or a prodigy.
- (ii) the public’s love for a film star, a sportsperson, a politician, or a social worker.
- (iii) your love for a friend, or brother or sister.
- (iv) your love for a pet, and the pet’s love for you.

Ans. About people, I have the opinion that qualities of people like those of objects make them desirable to others.

Yes, we love others because we like their qualities, whether physical or mental as public love a film star, a sportsperson, a politician or a social worker.

Yes, it is also possible to love someone 'for themselves alone', as a parent or caregiver's love for a new-born baby, for a mentally or physically challenged child, for a clever child or a prodigy.

Yes, some people are more lovable than others as our love for a friend, or brother or sister or a pet.

5. You have perhaps concluded that people are not objects to be valued for their qualities or riches rather than for themselves. But elsewhere Yeats asks the question: How can we separate the dancer from the dance? Is it possible to separate 'the person himself or herself' from how the person looks, sounds, walks, and so on? Think of how you or a friend or member of your family has changed over the years. Has your relationship also changed? In what way?

Ans. Yes, I have perhaps concluded that people are not objects to be valued for their qualities or riches rather than for themselves.

Yes, Yeats asks elsewhere how we can separate the dancer from the dance.

Yes, it is possible to separate the person himself or herself from the looks, sounds, walks and so on.

I have observed how I or my friends or members of my family have changed over the years. There is much change in the looks, sounds, walks and so on.

Yes, our relationship has also changed. It has changed in many ways. Previously, we had joint families but now we have nucleus families. Now we use our relations for our purposes only. We are more selfish and individualistic.
