

NCERT Solutions for Class 8 English (Poorvi)

Chapter 11 : Harvest Hymn

Let us discuss

I Write the stanza number for the main idea of each stanza given below. Share your answers with your classmates and teacher.

1. The speakers recognise the lord's kindness and praise him for nourishing the field.	
2. The speakers praise the generosity of the creator of the universe who ensures a rich harvest.	
3. The speakers devote their lives and work as a mark of respect to the lord and seek his support, wisdom, and care.	
4. The speakers pay homage to the Earth and appreciate her role in supporting life, by dedicating their harvest.	

Answer:

1. The speakers recognise the lord's kindness and praise him for nourishing the field.	Stanza 1
2. The speakers praise the generosity of the creator of the universe who ensures a rich harvest.	Stanza 4
3. The speakers devote their lives and work as a mark of respect to the lord and seek his support, wisdom, and care.	Stanza 4
4. The speakers pay homage to the Earth and appreciate her role in supporting life, by dedicating their harvest.	Stanza 3

II Fill in the blanks by choosing the appropriate words or phrases from within the brackets.

- The setting of the poem is a rural landscape, possibly during a _____ (harvest/religious) festival.
- The tone of the poem is respectful and celebratory because it praises _____

3. (the men and women/ nature and the Lord) with deep respect and gratitude.

In the line 'Thou art our Hands and our Heart and our Home', the letter 'h' is capitalised in 'Hands', 'Heart' and 'Home' because _____. (it represents the hard work of farmers/God resides in them)

Answer:

1. harvest
2. nature and the Lord
3. God resides in them.

III Identify the poetic device used in the following lines from the poem.

- Bright and munificent lord of the morn!
- We bring thee our lives and our labours for tribute

Answer:

- Alliteration
- Alliteration

IV Match the lines from the poem in Column 1 with their expressions in Column 2. Choose the appropriate poetic device from the box given below and write in Column 3.

imagery alliteration simile metaphor personification

Column 1	Column 2	Column 3
1. sweet and omnipotent mother	(i) creates a clear description of the scene and appeals to the senses	
2. The wealth of our valleys, new-garnered and ripe	(ii) implied comparison of growth and reaping with beginning and end of all life	
3. Thou art the Seed and the Scythe	(iii) the earth is being given human-like qualities	

Answer:

Column 1	Column 2	Column 3
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1. sweet and omnipotent mother	(i) creates a clear description of the scene and appeals to the senses	Personification
2. The wealth of our valleys, new-garnered and ripe	(ii) implied comparison of growth and reaping with beginning and end of all life	Imagery

3. Thou art the Seed and the Scythe	(iii) the earth is being given human-like qualities	Metaphor
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V Certain words or phrases are repeated in the same line of the poem. For example,

The gold of our fields and the gold of our fruit;

Find more such repetitions from the poem. What is the poet's purpose of using repetition in the poem? Answer:

We bring thee our songs and our garlands for tribute

We praise thee... (repeated for different deities)

VI The poem uses symbolism to convey deeper meanings. Match the symbols in Column 1 with the meanings they convey in Column 2.

Column 1	Column 2
1. Prithvi (the Earth)	(i) light, energy, life—representing the giver of warmth and prosperity
2. Surya (the Sun)	(ii) mercy and nourishment—crucial for agriculture and sustenance
3. Varuna (Rain)	(iii) fertile land, motherhood, nurturing—the source of all life

Answer:

Column 1	Column 2
1. Prithvi (the Earth)	(iii) fertile land, motherhood, nurturing—the source of all life
2. Surya (the Sun)	(i) light, energy, life—representing the giver of warmth and prosperity

3. Varuna (Rain)	(ii) mercy and nourishment—crucial for agriculture and sustenance
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Let us think and reflect

I Read the given extracts and answer the questions that follow.

1. We bring thee our songs and our garlands for tribute, The gold of our fields and the gold of our fruit;

O giver of mellowing radiance, we hail thee, We praise thee, O Surya, with cymbal and flute.

(i) What does the act of bringing songs and garlands as tribute suggest about the people's relationship with the divine?

- A. They fear the gods and wish to calm them in any way possible.
- B. They have a deep sense of reverence and gratitude towards the divine.
- C. They are forced to perform rituals without understanding the divine.
- D. They depend on the gods for their daily needs and activities.

Answer: B. They have a deep sense of reverence and gratitude towards the divine.

(ii) Complete the following sentence suitably.

The word 'gold' in the phrases 'the gold of our fields' and 'the gold of our fruit' symbolises _____.

Answer: richness and abundance of the harvest

How does the description 'O giver of mellowing radiance' help us understand Surya's role in the harvest?

Answer: It highlights Surya's (Sun's) role in ripening and nurturing the crops by providing gentle, life-giving light.

(iii) Fill in the blank by selecting the correct option from those given in the brackets.

The use of cymbal and flute signifies _____. (joy and celebration/meditation and worship)

Answer: joy and celebration

2. All Voices:

Lord of the Universe, Lord of our being, Father eternal, ineffable Om!

Thou art the Seed and the Scythe of our harvests, Thou art our Hands and our Heart and our Home.

(i) In the phrase 'Lord of our being,' what does the word 'being' most likely refer to?

- A. Our physical body
 - B. Our entire existence
 - C. Our spiritual practices
 - D. Our earthly possessions
- Answer: B. Our entire existence

(ii) Identify whether the following statement is true or false.

The imagery of 'the Seed and the Scythe' symbolises the divine's role as both the beginning (creation) and the end (harvest) of the agricultural cycle.

Answer: True

(iii) Identify the phrases from the extract that mean the following:

- A. The divine as a timeless, everlasting presence
 - B. Beyond human comprehension or description
- Answer: A. Father eternal

B. Ineffable Om

(iv) How do we know that these lines from the extract are spoken as a chorus?

Answer: These lines from the extract are spoken as a chorus because the stanza is introduced with "All Voices", indicating a collective, choral praise by the entire community.

II Answer the following questions.

1. Why do the farmers hail the God of rain?

Answer: The farmers hail the God of rain because rain is essential for the crops to grow, and they are grateful to Varuna for nourishing the fields with rain and dew.

2. What is being referred to as 'wealth of our valleys'? Why?

Answer: The phrase "wealth of our valleys" refers to the freshly harvested crops, which represent the rich produce gathered from the valleys, symbolising prosperity and abundance.

3. State one reason why the women refer to the Earth as a 'source of manifold gladness'.

Answer: The women refer to the Earth as a 'source of manifold gladness' because Mother Earth provides food, shelter, and life, bringing joy, sustenance, and well-being to all.

4. Why does everyone in the poem offer their 'labours for tribute'?

Answer: Everyone in the poem offers their "labours for tribute" to show gratitude to the divine for blessing their hard work with a successful harvest, and to dedicate their the celebration, unity, and richness of the efforts to the greater cosmic power. harvest season.

5. Why has the poet presented the poem as voices of men, women, and all voices?

Answer: The poet has presented the poem as voices of men, women, and all voices to show that the entire community — regardless of gender — comes together in unity and gratitude to celebrate the harvest and praise nature and divinity.

6. How does the poet create the joyous atmosphere of rural India at harvesting time?

Answer: The poet creates the joyous atmosphere of rural India at harvesting time by using vivid imagery, musical instruments (like cymbals, flutes, and drums), and words of praise and thanks, the poet conveys.

7. Why is the poem presented as a hymn?

Answer: The poem is presented as a hymn because it is a song of praise and devotion, expressing spiritual gratitude towards nature and the divine for the blessings of the harvest.