

Let us discuss

I Complete the following summary with exact words from the poem. One example has been done for you. Share your answers with your classmates and teacher.

The poem describes Mrs. Jones, the speaker's next-door neighbour, who has a unique garden filled with 1. _____. Her garden includes a peculiar 2. _____, a pond, and a rockery, along with an unusual 3. _____ that she finds charming. Mrs. Jones plants tiny, 4. _____ plants between the stones, which the speaker thinks must be so small that they are planted with a 5. _____. One day, Mrs. Jones invites the speaker to see her garden, and they discuss a 6. _____ that Mrs. Jones treasures. When the speaker asks where the 7. _____ flower is, Mrs. Jones says that the speaker has been 8. _____ on it all along.

Answer:

1. stones
2. path
3. device
4. delicate
5. pin
6. flower
7. lovely
8. standing

II Select the correct option to fill in the blanks for the following sentences.

1. The tone of the poem is _____.

- (i) mocking
- (ii) humorous
- (iii) mournful
- (iv) amusing
- (v) light-hearted

- A. (i), (ii), and (iii)
- B. (i), (ii), and (v)
- C. (ii), (iii), and (iv)
- D. (ii), (iv), and (v)

Answer:

- D. (ii), (iv), and (v)

2. The speaker in the poem is _____.

- (i) Mrs. Jones
- (ii) the poet
- (iii) a gardener
- (iv) a child

Answer:

the poet

3. The rhyme scheme of the poem is _____.

- (i) AABBC
- (ii) ABABCC
- (iii) AABCAC
- (iv) ABBACC

Answer:

- (i) AABBC

III Complete the following sentences by choosing the correct answer given in the brackets.

1. The poet uses the word 'stones' in all stanzas in order to emphasise her _____. (obsession with a stony garden/pride in gardening skills)
2. The poet uses imagery to describe the features of the garden that help readers _____. (understand Mrs. Jones' love for plants/visualise the garden's peculiar nature)

Answer:

1. obsession with a stony garden
2. visualise the garden's peculiar nature

IV Pick examples of alliteration from the poem.

Answer:

puts plants, flower for quite a quarter

V A refrain is a repeated line or phrase that appears in each stanza.

Identify the refrain from the poem.

Answer:

My next-door neighbour, Mrs. Jones.

VI Irony is a literary device that emphasises the difference between what is expected and what actually happens. It often involves a situation where the outcome is the opposite of what is expected, creating a surprising or a humorous effect. For example, Mrs. Jones' excitement about her garden contrasts with the speaker's disappointment on how ordinary it is.

Identify the line(s) from the poem that display(s) situational irony.

Answer

"You're standing on it," she replied.

VII Complete the following sentences appropriately.

1. The word 'concrete' can refer to _____ in Mrs. Jones' garden.

Answer:

the stones and hard surfaces

2. The title also has a symbolic meaning, as the poem provides a clear or 'concrete' example of Mrs. Jones' _____ gardening habits.

Answer:

clear or fixed

VIII The title 'A Concrete Example' carries both literal and symbolic (metaphorical) meaning. Such word play is called a pun. A pun is a figure of speech that uses words with multiple meanings or words that sound alike but have different meanings, creating a humorous effect.

- I tried arguing with my pencil but it kept making sharp points. (suggests the idea of an actual sharp pencil point and strong argument points)

Answer:

Literal: Garden made of concrete/stones

- My pencil and I had a disagreement but we finally got to the point. (refers to solving an argument and the pencil's tip)

Answer:

Metaphorical: Clear example of Mrs. Jones' strange gardening style

Let us think and reflect

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

1. My next-door neighbour, Mrs. Jones,
has got a garden full of stones:

A crazy path, a lily pond,

a rockery and, just beyond

A sundial with a strange device,

which Mrs. Jones thinks rather nice.

(i) What can be inferred about Mrs. Jones's taste in gardening from the description of her garden being 'full of stones'?

Answer:

She prefers minimalism and unusual garden design.

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

The garden serves as a means to reveal more about Mrs. Jones herself.

Answer:

True

(iii) What does the poet mean by 'crazy path'?

Answer:

By the term 'crazy path' the poet means a path with an odd or irregular arrangement.

(iv) What does the sundial with a 'strange device' suggest about Mrs. Jones' personality?

- A. She has a fascination with unusual items.
- B. She prefers traditional garden decorations.
- C. She is uninterested in her garden's appearance.
- D. She likes modern and expensive items.

Answer:

- A. She has a fascination with unusual items.

II Answer the following questions.

1. How does Mrs. Jones feel about her garden? Support your answer with evidence from the poem.

Answer:

Mrs. Jones takes pride in her unique garden. She sees beauty in its tiny elements.

2. Why do you think the speaker describes the plants as being so small that they could be planted with a pin?

Answer:

The speaker describes the plants as being so small that they could be planted with a pin because they are so small and delicate.

3. What do we get to know about Mrs. Jones—based on her gardening style and her interaction with the speaker?

Answer:

Based on her gardening style and her interaction with the speaker, it is obvious that Mrs. Jones is detail- oriented, eccentric, and values things that others may overlook.

4. The poem portrays Mrs. Jones in a positive light. Support this statement.

Answer:

Yes, she is shown as someone with a strong taste and passion for gardening. Gardening encourages planting trees.

5. What does the poem tell us about the way people think differently about the world around them?

Answer:

People find beauty in different things; it encourages respecting varied views.