

Literature

Unit 2.5 Soft Storm (Poems)

Class 12 English Exercise

Abhi Subedi

Understanding the text

Answer the following questions.

a. When does the speaker grow soft? Enlist the occasions when he grows soft?

Answer: The poem 'soft storm' composed by Abhi Subedi is filled with a touch of compassion and investigates the insanities of tumultuous times. The speaker has said he grows soft when:

- He hears the tumult of earth.
- The sky grew like crocuses
- The moon skids down
- The moon sang of lampposts and gutters in this seamless city.

b. What do you understand by 'this seamless city'?

Answer: I understand the term "this seamless city" as a place that is free from all forms of disturbance, free from awkward transitions, and indications. The city, from boundaries and full of freedom for human choices.

c. Describe the poor children portrayed in the poem.

Answer: In the poem, the poor and homeless children seen in Thamel are portrayed. They were hungry and crying with hunger under the bat-bearing tree at kesharmahal.

d. What do you understand by 'the unwedded gardens of history'?

Answer: The term 'unwedded gardens of history' signifies the culture and history of the Kathmandu valley that has been ignored for a long time.

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e. Why was the forlorn child wailing?

Answer: The forlorn child portrayed in the poem was wailing to find his mother in the corridors of violent history.

f. What do you understand about ‘soft storm’?

Answer: The term ‘soft storm’ signifies its meaning itself by presenting the concept of a storm that is soft or smooth. In this poem, the poet’s disturbed feelings that are not disastrous are generalized by the term ‘soft storm’.

g. Why does the speaker call our time ‘mad time’?

Answer: The speaker points out time as mad time because the speaker finds out the disturbing mixture of destruction. The narrator finds unusual and selfish behaviour of people. People are mannerless and their activities are unlawful. Their thoughts and actions are reasonable with stupidity. Modern people are trying to dominate and keep themselves up with materialism.

The speaker observes the activities like stones growing on flowers, rhododendrons blooming in winter, the earth is full of tumults in the song of the birds, moon hums melodies, history rashes under the lampposts, and birds share the bizarre journey over the warming earth. Thus the speaker claims mad time.

h. What does the speaker want to do in “hard times”?

Answer: The poet wants to melt like a rainbow in “hard times”.

Reference to the context

a. The poet uses the word ‘soft’ with the words like ‘storm’ and ‘gale’, which generally refer to disorder and violence. What effect does the poet achieve through the use of such anomalous expressions?

Answer: The poem ‘soft storm’ composed by Abhi Subedi expresses the touch of compassion and the inner disturbance of the poet. The title itself glorifies the emotions of the poet as they were disturbed but yet not disastrous.

In the poem, the speaker uses the word ‘soft’ with the words like

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‘storm’ and ‘gale’ to express his inner disturbance. Generally, the anomalous expression refers to the syntactically well-formed but semantically meaningless. In the poem, the expressions ‘soft storm’ and ‘softness rose like a gale’ are unusual and paradoxical. They are used to define the psychological effect of a speaker. By connecting such ideas, the poet is trying to achieve the ability to express his inner state through psychology.

b. What is the speaker’s attitude towards the time he describes in the poem?

Answer: The speaker expresses his thoughts toward the time by using the term ‘mad time’. He considers the time to be mad as he experiences different unusual things and unlawful activities. The things happening around him were unusual and mannerless. Society is in complete disorder and mannerless. Also, he observes that modern society is out of control and it gives him inner disturbance so his attitude toward the time seems not to be positive.

c. What is the speaker like? Is he a rebel? Why? Why not?

Answer: The poem ‘soft storm’ describes the inner emotion of the speaker when he observes modern society. With the touch of compassion, the speaker reveals his tumultuous nature and describes what he feels. The poet finds our society in complete disorder. Society and people are suffering from corruption. People with hunger are seen everywhere in the streets. He witnesses modern people ignoring glorious history.

On the other hand, most things are unusual and unlawful. People are forgetting about humanity and are behaving inhumanely with each other. They have forgotten the mutual respect and sympathy. In the poem, the poet seems to challenge these things. So we can call him a rebel through his rebellious nature is not directly presented.

d. Explain the stanza below in your own words:

*I became soft
when I saw*

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*a blood-stained shirt
speaking in the earth's ears
with bruised human lips
in the far corner
under the moon
of history and dreams
playing hide and seek
in open museums
of human times.*

Answer: The above lines are extracted from the fourth stanza of the poem 'soft storm' composed by Abhi Subedi. As the title glorifies, the poem describes his inner emotion using anomalous expression. He seems to be rebellious indirectly to the unlawful activities of modern society.

Through the above lines, the poet expresses his suffering from uneasy feelings when he observes a person in miserable condition during the night. When he sees a person with a blood-stained shirt during the night, he experiences the inner soft storm inside him. In the poem, the person is lying unconsciously on the ground in the moonlit night. Here, human dreams and achievements are presented by the moon of history. When the moon appears in the sky, the moonlight falls on a place of cultural and historical importance. Through this natural interplay during the night, the poet describes people who are indifferent to the injured person who might be the victim of violence.

Through this natural interplay during the night, it seems people are indifferent to the injured person who might be the victim of violence.

Reference beyond the text

a. Write an essay, highlighting your dissatisfaction towards social, cultural, economic and political issues prevailing in Nepal at present.

Answer:

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Social, Cultural, Economic and Political Issues Prevailing in Nepal: An Essay

A large section of the population in Nepal cannot access political participation and representation in public affairs and obtain social and cultural equality due to economic and social conditions, social stigma and lack of access to information, among other reasons.

Political Issues:

I oppose this competitive multiparty democratic system of governance which is not stable by its nature and rule of law, human rights and fundamental rights mentioned in the constitution, only named independence and free and fair judiciary as these things are only projected in the documents, not in the practical life of the people. The political leaders are just playing the game of dirty politics violating the rights of the people and the constitution.

Social and Economic Issues:

Old caste system like Dalits is the most discriminated people under this system who suffer from restriction and economic opportunities in the society. I totally disagree with such sort of social system in the country. There is widespread corruption everywhere and nepotism and favouritism are prevalent in society. Although the UN estimates that poverty in Nepal has been dropping gradually, a quarter of the population are still below the poverty line.

Cultural Issues:

Gender inequality, discrimination against women, girls trafficking, violence against women and many more are the obstacles of the current society I am not satisfied with.

b. Suppose you are a rebel, who wants to change the society by eliminating malpractices and anomalies prevailing in the society. Draft a speech outlining your vision for change.

Answer:

Good morning everyone.

Respected ladies and gentlemen and my dear friends, I am Sundar Shrestha and today we have gathered here against malpractices and

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anomalies being practiced in the society and how they are becoming hurdles for our country's development.

Some of the common social malpractices or social evils being practiced in our society are alcoholism, racism, child abuse, etc. Besides, Nepal is facing a large number of social problems such as caste system, child labour, child marriage, illiteracy, gender inequality, superstitions, religious conflicts and much more.

Social evils are the issues opposed by most people of society. In ancient days, our ancestors have divided classes according to their people's occupation like Brahmins, Kshatriyas, Vaishyas, and Sudras. Sudras are the most suppressed people. The other three castes people don't even touch them and even they were not allowed into the temples. These were the adverse effects. The second issue is child labour and child marriage. A child without education is a bird without wings. Without proper education, your child would face a lot of problems in this modern world. There is the right age to do everything. Make your children study until he is ready for the work. Illiteracy is also one of the social issues. Educated people like us have to bring awareness to illiterate people.

Poverty is a significant problem to be solved as quick as possible. The cause of poverty is illiteracy, caste system, and unemployment. The government should provide training for the unemployed. Sanitation and uncleanliness is also social evil. The reason is people's carelessness and laziness. Every person must strive to make our country clean. Gender inequality and low status for women had become familiar. The reason for both of these evils is the narrow mindset of society. All these evils are interconnected. They stop most of our future citizens. To deal with these social evils, we have to get the right education with values. The government has to work more efficiently and try to eradicate these problems.

To check all the issues, the first and foremost step should be to educate people. A lot needs to be done to eradicate the shreds of a number of social evils still haunting our society. In Albert Einstein's words "The world is a dangerous place to live, not because of the

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people who are evil but because of the people who don't do anything about it.”

With this, I conclude my speech. Thank you, everyone, and I wish you all the best and to get succeed in your objectives of eradicating these social malpractices from society as soon as possible.

THE END

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