

Class - VIII

Ms Jaswinder

Subject - English Literature

Poem - On Killing a Tree [Continued]

Students, in this lesson we are going to continue with the poem 'On killing a Tree' by Gieve Patel. As we have already done in our previous lesson that it is an ironical poem in which the poet describes how to properly kill a tree. The steps to kill a tree described by the poet are cruel and inhumane. Hence the poem is not exactly about killing a tree. Instead the poet tries to invoke sympathy and pity for trees in the heart of readers. Students, in our previous lesson we have done first two stanzas of the poem. Now in this lesson we will do next stanzas of the poem.

★ Stanza - 3

No,

The root is to be pulled out - - - - -
- - - - - For years inside the earth.

Explanation -

This stanza begins with the word 'No' which means the methods discussed in the stanza above cannot kill the tree. For killing a tree we need to pull the roots of the tree out from the place where it has firmly held the earth. For taking out the roots, they need to be roped, tied and then pulled out. We need to pull it out entirely from the earth cave.

Class - VIII

Ms Jaswinder

Subject - English Literature

Poem - On Killing a Tree [Continued]

The roots of the tree which are white, wet and most sensitive, are the real strength of trees. They have lived deep in the earth for years. Once they are taken out, the strength of tree is gone. So in the third stanza the poet discusses the cruel way of killing a tree. According to him the only way of killing a tree is to either break its roots or pull them out using rope. They are the most sensitive part so when they are exposed to sun the tree dies.

★ Stanza - 4

Then the matter - - - - -
- - - - - Twisting, withering And then it
is done.

Explanation -

In this stanza the poet says after pulling the roots out, they are to be kept in sun and air which is hot then the roots which are white will become brown and hard. They will twist and wither and finally the tree is dead. And our task is done. So the final stage involves the most cruel part. The roots which were sensitive and white will now be exposed to outside environment. They will become hot, dry, hard, twisted and finally dead.

Class - VIII

Subject - English Literature

Poem - On Killing a Tree [Continued]

So in conclusion we can say that the poet has described every step involved in the process of killing a tree. Humans are harsh towards nature. The trees which are helping the environment since ages are killed instantly. Indirectly the poet gives us message to 'save trees'.

— last page —