

SAINIK SCHOOL GOPALGANJ

ASSIGNMENT

ON KILLING A TREE (POEM)

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I. Read the extracts below and answer the questions that follow:

1. It takes much time to kill a tree,
Not a simple jab of the knife Will do it.
It has grown Slowly consuming the earth,

A. What will a simple jab of the knife not do to a tree?
B. Where has the tree grown?
C. What did the tree need to grow?
D. How does its bark look?
2. No, The root is to be pulled out –
Out of the anchoring earth;
It is to be roped, tied,

A. What shall one have to do to kill the tree?
B. How does the earth give protection to the tree?
C. How is the earth seen in relation to it?
D. Name the poetic device used in the last line here.
3. And the strength of the tree exposed
The source, white and wet,
The most sensitive, hidden
For years inside the earth.

A. What happens when the tree is pulled out?
B. How does the source of the tree look?
C. Where has the source of the tree laid?
D. Give the meaning of „sensitive“.
4. Then the matter
Of scorching and choking
In sun and air,
Browning, hardening,
Twisting, Withering,
And then it is done.

- A. What happens to the tree after it is pulled out?
- B. Which colour does the tree acquire then and how does it look?
- C. What happens to the tree after all these stages?
- D. What is „it“ in the last line?

II. Answer the following questions in 30-40 words

1. What does the poet say to do to a tree to kill it?
2. What happens after a tree is entirely uprooted?
3. What are the two important stages for killing a tree completely?
4. How has the tree grown as given in the opening of the poem?
5. What kind of poem is on killing a tree?
6. What is the most sensitive part of a tree?
7. Why is it not easy to kill a tree?

III. Answer the following questions in 120-150 words.

1. Describe what the poet says about the killing of a tree as given in “On Killing a Tree”.
What is the irony involved?
2. According to the poet, how does nature (here, the tree) renew itself after an attack by man?
3. Why do you think the poet describes in detail the cutting of a tree? What effect does it have on you as a reader?
4. What are the lessons to be learnt from the poem?
5. Why does the poet use the expression ' to kill ' rather than ' to cut ' a tree?