

What is this life if, full of **care**

We have no time to stand and stare?

No time to stand beneath the **boughs**

And stare as long as sheep or cows:

No time to see, in broad daylight,

Streams full of stars, like skies at night:

No time to turn at Beauty's **glance**,

And watch her feet, how they can dance:

No time to wait till her mouth can

Enrich that smile, her eyes began?

A poor life this if, full of care,

We have no time to stand and stare

یہ زندگی کیا ہے، اگر پریشانیوں سے بھری ہوئی ہے

ہمارے پاس وقت ہی نہیں ہے کہ ڈارک کے دیکھ ہی لیں؟

اتنا وقت نہیں کہ شاخوں کے نیچے کھڑے ہو جائیں

اور بغور دیکھیں جتنی دیر تک بھڑیں اور گائیں دیکھتی ہیں

اتنا وقت نہیں دن کی روشنی میں دیکھ سکیں

رات کے آسمان کی طرح ستاروں سے بھری ندیاں

اور اتنا وقت نہیں خوبصورتی کی ایک جھلک دیکھیں

اور دیکھیں کہ اس کے پاؤں کیسے محور رقص ہیں

اتنا وقت نہیں کہ دیکھیں کہ کب اس کا منہ

اس مسکراہٹ کو چار چاند لگاتا ہے جو اس کی آنکھوں سے شروع ہوئی

اگر پریشانیوں سے بھری ہے تو یہ انتہائی خستہ حال زندگی ہے

کہ ہمارے پاس ٹھہرنے اور مشاہدہ کرنے کا وقت نہیں ہے۔

WORDS	URDU	SYNONYMS	WORDS	URDU	SYNONYMS
glance	جھلک	glimpse , look, view	boughs	شاخیں	branches, offshoots
care	پریشانی	worries , anxiety, unease	enrich	مالا مال کرنا	enhance, add to

EXPLANATION WITH REFERENCE TO THE CONTEXT**LINES 1-4**

*What is this life if, full of care
We have no time to stand and stare?
No time to stand beneath the boughs
And stare as long as sheep or cows.*

(1 Time)

REFERENCE:

These lines have been taken from the poem "Leisure" by W.H. Davies.

CONTEXT:

Nature stands for purification and enrichment of our souls, but our mechanical routine and hectic life have made our life dull and poor. We have deprived ourselves of simple joys and aesthetic pleasures of nature.

EXPLANATION:

The poet laments over the life we are living without enjoying the beauty of nature. According to the poet, if we have no time for our mind and soul, life is worthless and charmless. A contact with nature is the secret of a rich and healthy life. Modern man is busy in materialistic pursuits. His mechanical life has deprived him of simple beauties and innocent joys of nature. The poet compares man with animals like cow and sheep. He says that even animals are lucky enough to enjoy a stress-free life. They are free from hurry and worry, and enjoy the bounties of nature as long as they wish.

CRITICAL APPRECIATION:

To create sonic effect, the poet uses a figure of speech called alliteration, as in 'stand and stare' and 'beneath the boughs'. Alliteration gives melodious, esthetic pleasure to the reader. The rhyme scheme in these lines is AA BB.

LINES 5-6

*No time to see, in broad daylight,
Streams full of stars, like skies at night.*

EXPLANATION:

The poet says that we do not see streams full of stars in broad daylight because of our very hectic life. Streams full of stars imply the budding flowers shining on the stream waters in the sunshine. The poet compares the wonderful sight of the streams with the beautiful scene of the skies at night. The poet feels pity for modern man's hectic, mechanical life, which is deprived of the beauties and charms of nature. At night, he is indifferent to the wonderful phenomenon of twinkling stars. During day time, he misses the spectacular scene of the streams full of stars.

CRITICAL APPRECIATION:

These lines are a good example of visual imagery. The line ‘Streams full of stars, like skies at night’ appeals to our esthetic sense and gratifies our craving for beautiful objects. The fusion of two apparently different beautiful phenomena points to the artistic skill of the poet. The rhyme scheme in these lines is AA.

LINES 7-10

*No time to turn at Beauty's glance,
And watch her feet, how they can dance:
No time to wait till her mouth can
Enrich that smile, her eyes began?*

(3 Times)

EXPLANATION:

The poet presents beauty as a dancer whose rhythmic movement is a wonderful source of joy. The poet beautifully describes the smile that starts from eyes and reaches lips within no time. Here, the poet touches on an exciting idea: when one is about to smile, one's eyes reflect the sense of happiness first. The poet wants to say that modern man has detached himself from the soothing and pleasing accompany of nature. He has lost his innocent joys because of his very hectic and mechanical life.

CRITICAL APPRECIATION:

The poet has used the alliteration of ‘s’ sound in the phrase ‘streams full of stars like skies at night’ to integrate different objects of nature. He gives human manifestation to beauty in order to emphasize the presence of beauty all around us. The rhyme scheme in these lines is AA BB.

LINES 11-12

*A poor life this if, full of care,
We have no time to stand and stare*

(1 Time)

EXPLANATION:

The poet concludes the poem by answering the question he asked at the beginning of the poem: ‘What is this life if, full of care? We have no time to stand and stare?’ the poet says that it is a pity that man is so busy in materialistic pursuits that he has no time for the purification and enrichment of his mind and soul. The poet concludes that if we do not have time to relax and enjoy the beauties of nature, then we are living a very poor, sordid life.

CRITICAL APPRECIATION:

To create sonic effect, the poet uses a figure of speech called alliteration, as in ‘stand and stare’. Alliteration gives melodious, esthetic pleasure to the reader. The rhyme scheme in these lines is AA.

TEXTBOOK EXERCISE

- Q.1** Why do you think the poet has given this title to his poem when he is talking about life full of care with no time to stand and stare? (Leisure) OR (6 Times)
 What is the central idea/theme of the poem "Leisure"? OR (2 Times)
 Why does the poet lament in the poem, "Leisure"? OR (2 Times)
 What is the dilemma of modern man with reference to "Leisure"? (2 Times)
 Why does the poet call our life a poor life in the poem "Leisure"? OR (2 Times)
 How does the poet compare modern man with animals in the poem, "Leisure"? OR (2 Times)
 What is the importance of leisure for the modern busy man? OR (2 Times)
 Why does the poet call life "poor" in the poem, "Leisure"? OR (1 Time)
 How does the poet compare men with animals in the poem 'Leisure'? OR (1 Time)
 When does the life of a man become poor? (Leisure) OR (1 Time)
 What lesson does the poet want to convey through the poem, "Leisure"? OR (1 Time)
 "A poor life if, full of care." What is the poet trying to say in the line of the poem? OR (1 Time)
 Which weakness of the modern man is mentioned in the poem "Leisure"? (1 Time)
 What does the poet emphasize in "Leisure"? OR (1 Time)
 Justify the title of the poem, "Leisure". OR (1 Time)
 How does a life become poor? (Leisure) OR (1 Time)
 When does our life become useless? (Leisure) (1 Time)

Theme of the Poem

- Ans.** Nature stands for purification and enrichment of our souls, but our mechanical busy life has deprived us of simple beauties and charms of nature. Leisure is an ironical poem that criticizes our modern hectic life. The poet laments that we have no time for our mind and soul. We are worse than even sheep and cows that enjoy a stress free, relaxed life.

- Q.2** What is the poet trying to say in the last two lines of the poem, "Leisure"? (3 Times)

We Live a Poor Life

- Ans.** In the last two line of the poem, the poet says that our worldly pursuits and materialistic gains have taken away all our time. We have no time to relax and enjoy simple beauties and charms of nature. The poet laments that we live a poor and dull life, because of our preoccupation with material gains.

SHORT ANSWERS QUESTIONS FROM PAST PAPERS

- Q.1** What type of delight do we miss in our daily life? (Leisure) OR (3 Times)
 What beauties of nature do we miss in hurried life? OR (1 Time)
 Why do we ignore the charms of life? (Leisure) (1 Time)

We Miss Numerous Delights

- Ans.** We miss numerous delights in our daily life. We are so busy that we cannot look at beautiful objects of nature and enjoy them as long as sheep or cows. At night, we have no time to see the skies full of stars. In broad daylight, we miss the beauty of streams full of stars.

- Q.2 Give an example of personification from the poem, "Leisure". OR (2 Times)**
What do you mean by "Beauty's glance" in the poem, "Leisure"? (2 Times)

Example of Personification

Ans. The poet personifies beauty and presents her as a dancer. 'Beauty's glance', 'her feet', 'her mouth' and 'her eyes' are examples of personification. He says that we have no time to watch the rhythmic movement of her feet. We have no time to wait and listen how her mouth adds to the beauty of her eyes.

- Q.3 What do we not see in broad daylight? OR (2 Times)**
How can the streams be full of stars? (2 Times)

Streams Full of Stars

Ans. The poet says that we do not see streams full of stars in broad daylight because of our very hectic life. Streams full of stars imply the budding flowers shining on the stream waters in the sunshine. The poet compares the wonderful sight of the streams with the beautiful scene of the skies at night.

MCQS FOR PRACTICE

1. **What is this life if, full of _____?**
 (a) stare (c) flare
 (b) care (d) jeer
2. **We have no time to stand and _____.**
 (a) stare (c) glare
 (b) clear (d) care
3. **According to the poet, we do not have time to stand beneath the _____.**
 (a) rows (c) shades
 (b) trees (d) boughs
4. **No time to see, in broad daylight / Streams full of _____.**
 (a) screens (c) ridges
 (b) boats (d) stars
5. **A _____ life this if, full of care.**
 (a) cheap (c) substandard
 (b) poor (d) luxurious
6. **Watch her feet, how they can _____.**
 (a) walk (c) dance
 (b) move (d) jump
7. **What has the poet personified in the poem?**
 (a) streams (c) beauty
 (b) a dancing girl (d) sheep and cows
8. **No time to turn at Beauty's _____.**
 (a) attraction (c) imitation
 (b) glance (d) dance
9. **No time to wait till her mouth can / _____ that smile,**
 (a) speak (c) enrich
 (b) Adorn (d) stretch
10. **Who wrote the poem, "Leisure"?**
 (a) Robust Grave (c) A.E. Housman
 (b) W.H. Davies (d) N. Scott Momaday

ANSWER KEY

1.	B	2.	A	3.	D	4.	d	5.	B	6.	C	7.	C	8.	B	9.	C	10.	B
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SYNONYMS FROM PAST PAPERS

1. **Life is full of care.** (3 Times)
 (a) love (b) worries (c) joys (d) tests
 (a) hopes (b) enjoyment (c) happiness (d) worries
2. **No time to turn at Beauty's glance.** (1 Time)
 (a) style (b) attraction (c) activity (d) glimpse

ANSWER KEY

1.	B/D	2.	D
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MORE SYNONYMS FOR PRACTICE

1. **We have no time to stand and stare.**
 (a) gaze (c) sniff
 (b) yawn (d) doze
2. **No time to stand beneath the boughs.**
 (a) branches (c) trunks
 (b) bushes (d) stems
3. **Enrich that smile her eyes began.**
 (a) enhance (c) conceal
 (b) lessen (d) quit
4. **No time to see in broad daylight.**
 (a) extensive (c) effective
 (b) congested (d) intensive
5. **No time to stand beneath the boughs.**
 (a) away (c) over
 (b) under (d) beside

ANSWER KEY

1.	A	2.	A	3.	A	4.	A	5.	B
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