

Loveliest of trees, the cherry now
Is **hung** with **bloom** along the **bough**
And stands about the woodland ride
Wearing white for **Easter tide**.

Now, of my three **score** years and ten
Twenty will not come gain,
And take from seventy Springs a score,
It only leaves me fifty more.

And since to look at things **in bloom**
Fifty springs are little **room**,
About the woodland I will go
To see the cherry hung with snow.

پھولوں کے بھری شاخیں۔ لیے زہری کارنٹس سب سے پیارا لگ رہا
ہے۔ گھڑسواروں کے راستے کے قریب، سفید لبادہ اور ڈھلے ایسڑا کی
تقریب کے لئے تیار۔

اب میرے ستر سالہ زندگی میں سے بیس تو واپس نہیں آئیں گے اور
ستر بہاروں میں سے بیس نکال دیں تو میرے پاس صرف پچاس بہاریں
بچتی ہیں۔

ظاہر ہے کہ چیزوں کو اپنے جو بن پر دیکھنے کیلئے پچاس بہاریں ناکافی ہیں
تو اس کمی کو پورا کرنے کیلئے میں خوب جی بھر کر جنگل جنگل گھوموں
گاتا کہ چیری کو برف سے لدا ہوا اچھی طرح دیکھ لوں۔

WORDS	URDU	SYNONYMS	WORDS	URDU	SYNONYMS
in bloom	عروج پر	full swing , in full growth	room	وسعت، عرصہ	period , space, scope
bloom	پھول	mass of flowers , blossom	tide	لہر، موج	wave current, flow
bough	شاخ	branch , limb, offshoot	Easter	سیدالصحیح	Christian festival, spring time
score	بیس	twenty	hung	آویزاں	bowing, drooping

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

*Loveliest of trees, the cherry now
Is hung with bloom along the bough
And stands about the woodland ride
Wearing white for Easter tide.*

(2 Times)

REFERENCE:

These lines have been taken from the poem "Loveliest of Trees, the Cherry Now" by A.E. Housman.

CONTEXT:

The cherry loaded with white blossom is a source of pleasure for the poet. He is intoxicated by the magical beauty of nature. However, he also feels saddened at the shortness of earthly life. He resolves not to miss any chance of enjoying beauty of nature during the remaining years of his life.

EXPLANATION:

In the first stanza the poet contemplates the beauty of spring. He proclaims the cherry tree to be the "loveliest of trees" because it is adorned with blossoms on every branch. Fully loaded with flowers, this fascinating tree stands along the way that leads to the woods and has decorated the entire path. He personifies the tree, suggesting that it is "wearing white for Easter tide." just as women adorn themselves with fancy white dresses at Easter, so the tree is dressed in blossoms. It seems that cherry is going to welcome spring and celebrating Easter festival.

CRITICAL APPRECIATION:

The lines brim with visual images. The Christian image of Easter has an interesting parallel with spring as both spring and Easter are times of Resurrection and rebirth. The White is the symbol of purity. The poet believes in the purity of nature. The rhyme scheme in these lines is AABB. The poet has used the alliteration of 'b' and 'w' sounds in the given lines.

LINES 5-8

*Now, of my three score years and ten
Twenty will not come again,
And take from seventy Springs a score,
It only leaves me fifty more.*

(5 Times)

EXPLANATION:

The poet is nostalgic about the past and thirsty of youthful pleasures. The poem is deceptively simple. The cherry tree is a symbol of youth and beauty. The poet has seventy years to live on this earth. He is twenty years old now, and he regrets that these years of his youth will never come again. If he takes twenty years from the biblical seventy years, he will be left with fifty years to enjoy on this earth. The poet is so captivated by the beauty of cherry that he uses the word springs instead of years. It shows the poet's intense love for spring time and his passion for cherishing the beauty of nature. The poet wants to drink the cup of life to its very dregs.

CRITICAL APPRECIATION:

The rhyme scheme in these lines is AABB. The visual pleasure is complemented by the auditory impact as the poet has used the alliteration of 's' sound in the given lines.

LINES 9-12

*And since to look at things in bloom
Fifty Springs are little room,
About the woodland I will go
To see the cherry hung with snow.*

(12 Times)

EXPLANATION:

The poet has enjoyed nature for twenty years. He has now only fifty years to enjoy the beauties of nature. But he still considers this span of time very short and brief. He wishes for a long life to enjoy the beauty of nature, coloured and enriched by the glory of cherry tree. The poet is determined to go to the woodland more often to enjoy the glorious cherry tree. He wants to quench his aesthetic thirst by gazing at the beautiful boughs hung with snow. He wishes to make this scene everlasting.

CRITICAL APPRECIATION:

The poem's setting of Easter time reminds us of the springtime when the cherry comes into blossom. The whiteness of the cherry trees is a Christian tradition, suggesting purity, fresh beginnings, and rebirth. Snow is a symbol of purity and freshness. The rhyme scheme in these lines is AABB

TEXTBOOK EXERCISE

Q.1 Explain the first stanza with reference to context.

Ans. For answer, see EXPLANATION WITH REFERENCE TO THE CONTEXT

Q.2 What time of the year is mentioned in the first stanza?

What time of the year is mentioned in the poem, “Loveliest of Trees, the Cherry Now”? OR (3 Times)

Who is the writer of the poem “Loveliest of Trees, the Cherry Now” and what time of year is mentioned in the first stanza? OR (2 Times)

What is the importance of Easter? (1 Time)

Spring Time

Ans. The phrase “Easter tide” in the poem refers to springtime. It is a time when trees and bushes that were icy and barren begin to bear buds, leaves and flowers. Spring brings, beauty, grace and freshness to the earth which is dead and lifeless during the winter. The poet, A.E. Housman, refers to Easter as a symbol of festivity and creativity.

Q.3 Read the second stanza carefully and write how old is the poet? OR

After reading the poem “Loveliest of Trees, the Cherry Now”, write how old is the poet? OR (1 Time)

How many years of his life has the poet spent? OR (1 Time)

What does the poet mean by “Now, of my three score years and ten”? OR (1 Time)

How do we know that the poet is 20 years old? (1 Time)

Twenty Years Old

Ans. The poet has spent twenty years of his life. He regrets that these twenty years of his youth will not come again. According to the biblical seventy years of man’s life, the poet expects to live fifty years more to intoxicate himself with the spectacular beauty of the cherry.

Q.4 What is the poet trying to say in the last stanza of the poem? OR

What does the poet decide at the end of the poem “Loveliest of Trees, the Cherry Now”? (1 Time)

Life is Too Short

Ans. In the last stanza of the poem, the poet is trying to say that life is too short to enjoy the beauty of nature. He regrets the loss of twenty years of his youth. He, however, decides not miss any chance of enjoying the exotic beauty of nature.

SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS FROM PAST PAPERS

Q.1 What is the main idea of “Loveliest of Trees, the Cherry Now”? OR (6 Times)

What is the underlying meaning of the poem “Loveliest of Trees, the Cherry Now”?

Main Idea of the Poem

Ans. The main theme of the poem is the impermanence of human life. It also taps on the themes of natural beauty, death, and the transience of life. We learn that we should resort to nature more and more rather than waste our life in worldly, futile pursuits. The poem has a note of optimism suggesting that the beauty of life can be appreciated at all times.

- Q.2** When does cherry bloom and how does it look? OR (3 Times)
How does cherry look like? (1 Time)

In Spring

Ans. The cherry blooms in spring, and it signals the end of the winter. It reveals the first blush of spring. It looks loveliest in white dress. It seems that it has also decorated itself to welcome spring and participate in Easter celebration. The poet is intoxicated by the magical beauty of nature.

- Q.3** How does cherry add to the glory of Easter? OR (3 Times)
What is Easter and how does the cherry tree celebrate it? OR (3 Times)
What is the cherry tree wearing?

By Wearing White Dress

Ans. The cherry adds to the glory of Easter by wearing white dress. It seems that the cherry is going to welcome spring and celebrate Easter, the celebration of the rebirth of Christ, comes off in spring. The beauty of the cherry is also in full bloom in spring. The spectacular beauty of the cherry intoxicates the poet.

- Q.4** Why does the poet call cherry the loveliest of trees? OR (2 Times)
Why does the poet consider cherry the loveliest of all the trees? OR (2 Times)
What does the poet mean by “wearing white for Easter tide”? OR (2 Times)
Describe the beauty of the cherry tree. OR (1 Time)
Why is the poet fascinated by the cherry? OR (1 Time)
How is cherry depicted by the poet? (1 Time)

Magical Beauty

Ans. The poet calls cherry the loveliest of all trees because of its magical beauty. The cherry blooms in spring, which brings, beauty, grace and freshness. The spectacular beauty of cherry is in full bloom in spring. The poet says it seems that cherry has worn white dress to welcome spring and celebrate Easter festival.

- Q.5** Why does the poet wish for a longer life? OR (1 Time)
How does the poet plan to spend the small period of his remaining life of fifty years? OR (1 Time)
Why does poet realize that his life is very short? OR (1 Time)
Why are the fifty springs little to see the cheery tree? OR (1 Time)
Why are fifty-springs little room for the poet to see the cherry? OR (1 Time)
For how many years does the poet expect to live in the poem ‘Loveliest of Trees, the Cherry Now’? (1 Time)

Life is Too Short

Ans. The poet wishes for a longer life because human life is too short to look at things in bloom. He feels saddened at the shortness of life. He regrets that he has already lost the golden twenty years of his life. He plans not to miss any chance of enjoying the wonders of nature during the remaining years of his life.

Q.6 The Cherry is covered with snow. What does it mean? (1 Time)

A Metaphorical Description

Ans. The cherry covered with snow means that it contains both the beauty of spring and the chill of winter. Thus, it becomes a symbol for the transience of life. However, the snow the poet refers to isn't literal snow. It is a metaphorical description of the heavy white covering of cherry blossoms on the tree that covers it, just as snow covers trees in wintertime.

**Q.7 How the cherry has been personified? OR
Which tree is mentioned in the poem "Loveliest of Trees"? (1 Time)**

Wearing White for Easter Tide

Ans. The poet has personified the cherry tree, suggesting that it is "wearing white for Easter tide." just as women adorn themselves with fancy white dresses at Easter, so the tree is dressed in blossoms. It seems that cherry is going to welcome spring and celebrating Easter festival.

Q.8 What is the expected age of Man? (1 Time)

Seventy Years

Ans. According to the Bible, the expected age of the man is seventy years. The poet has already spent twenty years of his youth. He regrets that these years will not come again. He feels sad at the shortness of life. He thinks that his remaining fifty years are not enough to fully enjoy the beauties of nature.

Q.9 What was the age of the poet when he developed love for the cherry and why? (1 Time)

At the Age of Twenty

Ans. The poet developed love for the cherry at the age of twenty. He was fascinated by the exotic beauty of the cherry that blooms in spring. The cherry in white dress seemed to welcome spring and celebrate Easter. The poet decided to go to the woods every spring to intoxicate himself with the wonderful beauty of the nature.

MCOS TEXTBOOK EXERCISE

1. Cherry is the loveliest in _____. (3 Times)

- (a) winter (c) spring
(b) summer (d) autumn

2. Easter is a festival of _____.

- (a) Christians (c) Muslims
(b) Hindus (d) Sikhs

3. Cherry is dressed in _____

- (a) pink (c) red
(b) yellow (d) white

4. Three score years and ten are _____.

- (a) forty years (c) fifty years
(b) sixty years (d) seventy years

5. How many years of the poet's life would not come again?
 (a) ten (c) twenty
 (b) thirty (d) forty
6. Cherry glorifies _____. (2 Times)
 (a) life (c) mind and thought
 (b) the city (d) the environment

ANSWER KEY

1. C 2. A 3. D 4. D 5. C 6. D

MORE MCQS FOR PRACTICE

1. What is the cherry hung with?
 (a) snow (c) red flowers
 (b) frozen water (d) white flowers
2. Where does the cherry stand?
 (a) on a hill (c) in a valley
 (b) by the woodland ride (d) by the lake
3. What is the cherry dressed for?
 (a) a party (c) holiday
 (b) Christmas (d) Easter
4. What is the age of the poet at present?
 (a) twenty years (c) fifty years
 (b) seventy years (d) forty years
5. What is the average age of man?
 (a) 60 years (c) 70 years
 (b) 80 years (d) 90 years

ANSWER KEY

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

SYNONYMS FROM PAST PAPERS

1. Loveliest of the trees, the cherry now is hung with bloom along the bough. (4 Times)
 (a) mass of petals (b) mass of flowers (c) bush (d) bud
 (a) blossom (b) shower (c) seeds (d) rain
2. And since to look at things in bloom. (2 Times)
 (a) beauty (b) full swing (c) fascination (d) sadness
3. The cherry is hung with bloom along the bough. (1 Time)
 (a) bud (b) flower (c) branch (d) stake
4. Now, of my three score years and ten. (1 Time)
 (a) eighty (b) fifty (c) sixty (d) twenty
5. Fifty springs are little room: (1 Time)
 (a) period (b) show (c) night (d) call

ANSWER KEY

1. B/A 2. B 3. C 4. D 5. A

MORE SYNONYMS FOR PRACTICE

1. The cherry is hung with bloom along the bough.
(a) decorated (c) bare
(b) fragrant (d) loaded
2. The cherry stands about the woodland ride.
(a) valley (c) plain
(b) grassland (d) forest
3. The cherry stands about the woodland ride.
(a) party (c) track
(b) sidewalk (d) journey
4. Wearing white for Easter tide.
(a) anniversary of birth of Christ (c) anniversary of rebirth of Christ
(b) celebration of spring (d) celebration of summer
5. Wearing white for Easter tide.
(a) leap (c) flake
(b) coast (d) wave

ANSWER KEY

1.	D	2.	D	3.	D	4.	C	5.	D
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