



## Poem 3 Keeping Quiet

*By Pablo Neruda*



**Q1. Answer the following extract based questions:**

**a) Now we will count to twelve  
and we will all keep still  
For once on the face of the Earth  
let's not speak any language, let's stop for one second,  
and not move our arms so much**

**i) What is the significance of number twelve?**

Twelve is an extended counting. Counting till twelve will give one, time to slow down one's thoughts, and prepare oneself for introspection.

**ii) Which two activities does the poet want us to stop?**

The poet wants us to stop talking and stop moving our arms

**iii) What does the poet mean by 'Let's not speak in any language'?**

By this the poet means not to speak in any language and be silent. Hence, this sudden silence would give us an opportunity to introspect. Since we would not speak for a while, barriers between communities would break and a sense of brotherhood will prevail.

**b) 'it would be an exotic moment  
without rush, without engines,  
we would all be together  
in a sudden strangeness**

**i) Which exotic moment is referred to in these lines ?**

The poet refers to the moment when everyone would be quiet and still.

**ii) Why would that moment be strange ?**

That moment would be strange because we have never experienced such moments of quietness and peace earlier.

**iii) What does the poet advocate in the poem?**

The poet advocates that from time to time one should introspect.

**iv) What does the poet mean by the word, 'engines' ?**

By 'engines', the poet means noises, born inside us of an outside world.

**Q2. Answer the following questions in 30-40 words:**

**a) Which is the exotic moment that the poet refers to in ' Keeping Quiet'.**

The exotic moment referred to in ' Keeping Quiet' is the moment when everyone will introspect and will get time to look into one's inner self. There will be a feeling of mutual understanding and a feeling of oneness in a different way, thus, taking a break from violence and war.

**b) Why does one feel 'a sudden strangeness' in counting to twelve and keeping quiet ?**

By eliminating one's ego, one finds room for all the rest of the people in the world. When one starts feeling this togetherness, this new relation will be a new 'strange' experience.

**c) ' Life is what it is about.....' How is keeping quiet related to life ?**

'Keeping Quiet' is related to life, we need to pause for a moment and introspect. It is only when we introspect, that we realise the consequences of our actions and are able to correct them. Introspection will help us all live in peace and harmony and also understand ourselves. It will help us when we are sad so that we don't threaten ourselves with death. Keeping quiet will nurture good thoughts within us just like Mother Earth.

**d) Which sadness is Pablo Neruda referring to ?**

The sadness that Pablo Neruda refers to is the sadness of not knowing ourselves. In the race to live our lives, we forget to stop and ponder what is it that we actually need and that leads to sadness.

**Q3. Answer the following questions in 100-150 words :**

**a) Write the summary of the poem " Keeping Quiet".**

Pablo Neruda emphasizes the unique and as well as universal impact of having a sense of togetherness along with the need for introspection for mutual understanding. In this respect he is of the opinion to bring total inactivity amongst all the people. They may realise some strangeness and enjoy the exotic moments in their lives. So he urges people of all languages to stop speaking and the fishermen are asked to stop harming the

whales. Those who advocate deadly weapons to destruct the humanity, have been requested to stop and save humanity. He says that we should not confuse his theory with total inactivity. Life will go on moving as it is to move. There is no change in the laws of nature.

There can be no agreement with the death but sadness may trouble us. It is very much essential for us that we must understand ourselves because there can be life under apparent stillness and there is life beyond it. Nature teaches us that when everything seems dead, it later proves to be alive. So it is utmost important for us to realise the feeling of mutual understanding amongst us.



## L 4 The Enemy

By Pearl S Buck



Q 1 Answer the following questions in 30-40 words

a) What was Sadao's father dream for him ? How did Sadao realise it?

**Ans: Value points :**

- Sadao's education was his father's chief concern
- He was sent to America at the age of 22 to learn all he could learn of surgery and medicine.
- Became an eminent surgeon and scientist
- Perfecting a discovery which would render wounds clean.

**Detailed answer**

Sadao's father wanted his son to be a doctor. Sadao realised this dream by becoming one of the most known and respectable surgeons of the country . He was also working to perfect a discovery which would render wounds clean. He was so trustworthy as a doctor that the general had not sent him abroad with the troops as he wanted to keep Sadao around for his surgery.

b) Why was Sadao not sent abroad along with troops?

**Ans : Value points**

- There may be danger to old general's life. Might need operation
- Sadao was perfecting a discovery which would render wounds entirely clean.

**Detailed answer**

Dr Sadao was not sent abroad with troops for two reasons

- 1) He was working on a discovery which would render wounds entirely clean.
- ii) The general was in a condition where he might need an emergency operation. He could only trust Sadao as his surgeon

c) What role did American play in bringing Hana and Sadao together?

**Ans: Value points**

- American professor and wife were kind hearted
- Anxious to do something for foreign students.
- Professor Harley invited students students to his place
- Sadao found rooms too small

**Ans:** Sadao had met Hana at an American professor's home. The professor and his wife had been kind people. They wanted to do something for their few foreign students. Sadao had almost not gone to professor Harley's house that night. But when he went there, he had found Hana, a new student for whom he had developed liking

**d) Did Hana think that the Japanese tortured their prisoners of war? Why?**

**Ans:** Hana thought that the prisoners of war were tortured. She had heard stories of the sufferings of the prisoners. When the wounded American soldier was brought in, she had seen the red scars behind his neck. In fact, these scars were proofs of torture he had suffered in prison.

**Q 2 Answer the following questions in about 125-150 words:**

**a) Dr. Sadao faced a dilemma. Should he use his surgical skills to save the life of a wounded person or hand an escaped American POW over to Japanese police? How did he resolve this clash of values?**

**Ans :** Value points :

- Sadao believed in professional loyalty and human kindness.
- Ran the risk of being punished for saving an American
- Dilemma to be a patriot or traitor.
- Surgeon in him instinctively inspires him to operate upon the dying man / save him
- His sentimentality for the suffering and wounded help him rise above narrow national prejudices and extend help and services to an enemy.
- As a patriot reported the prisoner's presence at his house to the general- keeping his integrity as a Japanese ending of the stories highlights humanitarian attitude of Sadao.
- Waited for the assassin to come.

Detailed answer

Dr. Sadao and his wife Hana remained in the state of conflict for quite a long time. They couldn't throw a wounded man again into the sea. They thought if they gave shelter to him in their house, they could be arrested' Handing him over to the police would have meant throwing him into the jaws of death. They were in a state of intense conflict. Ultimately, the duty of a doctor overpowered

**b) Do you think Dr. Sadao's final decision was the best possible one in**

**the circumstances? Why / Why not explain with reference to the story , “Enemy”.**

**Ans** It is said that war arouses passion. During the war hatred against a member of the enemy race is justifiable. It is natural reaction. We find it in the servants of Dr. Sadao. Even Yumi refuses to wash the wound. They don't want to commit the sin of saving the enemy .Hence, they leave the house as long as the American lives there. It does not mean that Dr.Sadao loves or likes Americans. On the other hand he has had very bitter experiences with them when he was in America. He knows that Americans were suffering from racial prejudice. He considers it as a relief that Japan is at war with America. Even Hana is reluctant to wash the wound of the prisoner of war. Only her human qualities and devotion to her husband compel her to look after the enemy. So far as Dr. Sadao is concerned, his duty as a doctor makes him operate on Tom and save him from dying.

Above all it is basic humanity and human values that compel a human being to rise over these prejudices. Love for humanity and human beings transcends all other narrow consideration . Both Dr. Sadao and Hana think that Americans are their enemies but dr. Sadao has been trained as a Doctor and will not let a man die if he can help him..So he will do his duty and his wife will help him in every possible way He fulfilled his duties as a human

## Reading comprehension ( Factual paragraph )

Question 1.

Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow: (

1. Today's woman is a highly self-directed person, alive to the sense of her dignity and the importance of her functions in the private domestic domain and the public domain of the world of work. Women are rational in approach, careful in handling situations and want to do things as best as possible. The Fourth World Conference of Women held in Beijing in September 1995 had emphasized that no enduring solution of society's most threatening social, economic and political problems could be found without the participation and empowerment of the women. The 1995 World Summit for Social Development had also emphasised the pivotal role of women in eradicating poverty and mending the social fabric.

2. The Constitution of India had conferred on women equal rights and opportunities political, social, educational and of employment with men. Because of oppressive traditions, superstitions, exploitation and corruption, a majority of women are not allowed to enjoy the rights and opportunities, bestowed on them. One of the major reasons for this state of affairs is the lack of literacy and awareness among women. Education is the main instrument through which we can narrow down the prevailing inequality and accelerate the process of economic and political change in the status of women.

3. The role of women in a society is very important. Women's education is the key to a better life in the future. A recent World Bank study says that educating girls is not a charity, it is good economics and if developing nations are to eradicate poverty, they must educate the girls. The report says that the economic and social returns on investment in education of the girls considerably affect the human development index of the nation. Society would progress only if the status of women is respected and the presence of an educated woman in the family would ensure education of the family itself. Education and empowerment of women are closely related.

4. Women's education has not received due care and attention from the planners and policymakers. The National Commission for Women has rightly pointed out that even after 50 years of independence, women continue to be treated as the single largest group of backward citizens of India. The role of women in overall development has not been fully understood nor has it been given its full weight in

the struggle to eliminate poverty, hunger, injustice and inequality at the national level. Even when we are at the threshold of the 21st century, our society still discriminates against women in matters of their rights and privileges and prevents them from participating in the process of national and societal progress.

Various Committees and Commissions have been constituted before and after the independence to evaluate the progress in women's education and to suggest ways and means to enhance the status of women. The female literacy rate has gone up in the 20th century from 0.6 per cent in 1901 to 39.29 per cent in 1991 but India still possesses the largest number of illiterate women in the world. The female literacy index for the year 1991 shows that there are eight States which fall below the national average. The most populous States of the country, UP, MP, Bihar and Rajasthan fall in the category of most backward States as far as female li

. The prevailing cultural norms of gender behaviour and the perceived domestic and reproductive roles of women tend to affect the education of girls. Negative attitude towards sending girls to schools, restrictions on their mobility, early marriage, poverty and illiteracy of parents affect the girl's participation in education.

6. Women's political empowerment got a big boost with the Panchayati Raj Act of 1993 which gave them 30 per cent reservation in Village Panchayats, Block Samities and Zila Parishads throughout the country. The National Commission for Women was also set up in 1992 to act as a lobby for women's issues.

7. The educational system is the only institution which can counteract the deep foundations of inequality of sexes that are built in the minds of people through the socialization process. Education is the most important instrument of human resource development. Educational system should be used to revolutionize the traditional attitudes and inculcate new values of equality.

(a)

i) Mention any two attributes of a modern woman. 2

(ii) Why are women's participation and empowerment considered necessary? 2

(iii) Which factors adversely affect the education of girls? 2

(iv) What benefits did the women get with the enactment of the Panchayati Raj Act of 1993? 2



(v) By what process can we remove the sense of inequality of sexes from the minds of th(b) Pick out words from the passage which mean the same as each of the following:

(i) cruel and unfair (para 2)

(ii) remove (para 3)

(iii) full of people (para 4)

Question 2.

Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow:

1. For many years now the Governments have been promising the eradication of child labour in hazardous industries in India. But the truth is that despite all the rhetoric no Government so far has succeeded in eradicating this evil, nor has any been able to ensure compulsory primary education for every Indian child. Between 60 and 100 million children are still at work instead of going to school, and around 10 million are working in hazardous industries. India has the biggest child population of 380 million in the world; plus the largest number of children who are forced to earn a living.

2. We have many laws that ban child labour in hazardous industries. According to the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act 1986, the employment of children below the age of 14 in hazardous occupations has been strictly banned. But each state has different rules regarding the minimum age of employment. This makes the implementation of these laws difficult.

3. Also, there is no ban on child labour in nonhazardous occupations. The act applies to the organised or factory sector and not the unorganized or informal sector where most children find employment as cleaners, servants, porters, waiters, among other forms of unskilled work. Thus, child labour continues because the implementation of the existing law is lax.

5. The truth is that it is poverty which is pushing children into the brutish labour market. We have 260 million people below the poverty line in India, a large

number of them are women. Poor and especially woman-headed families have no option but to push their little ones in this hard life in hostile conditions, with no human or labour rights.

6. There is a lobby which argues that there is nothing wrong with children working as long as the environment for work is conducive to learning new skills but studies have shown that the children are made to do boring, repetitive and tedious jobs and are not taught new skills as they grow older. In these hellholes like the sweet shops of the old,

7. Children working in hazardous industries are prone to debilitating diseases which can cripple them for life. By sitting in cramped, damp and unhygienic spaces, their limbs become deformed for life. Inside matchstick, fireworks and glass industries they are victims of bronchial diseases and T.B. Their mental and physical development is permanently impaired by long hours of work. Once trapped, they can't get out of this vicious circle of poverty. They remain uneducated and powerless. Finally, in later years, they too are compelled to send their own children to work. Child labour perpetuates its own nightmare. there is no hope.

8. If at all the Government was serious about granting children their rights, an intensive effort ought to have been made to implement the Supreme Court's Directive of 1997 which laid down punitive action against employers of child labour. Only compulsory primary education can eliminate child labour.

9. Surely, if 380 million children are given a better life and elementary education, India's human capital would be greatly enhanced. But that needs, as former President Abdul Kalam says, "a Second

(a)

(i) On which two counts has the Government not succeeded so far in respect of children? 2

(ii) What makes the implementation of child labour law difficult? 2

(iii) Why do industries prefer child labour?

(iv) What are the adverse effects of hazardous industries on children? Given any two. 2

(v) What does the Supreme Court's Directive of 1997 provide? 1

(b) Find words from the passage which mean the same as the following:

(i) risky/dangerous (para 1)

(ii) very unfriendly (para 5)

(iii) intended as punishment (para 8)

