

## Second Language ENGLISH

### Poem -5 Jazz Poem Two

10) Read the last ten words of the poem. You may observe a change in the tone. What is that about?

Ans: The tone in the last ten words is of despondence (loss of hope). The speaker says that the Jazz player, who transformed himself into a bird with the power of music, may once again relapse into his pathetic condition of being an old black man with a wrinkled face and worn-out clothing.

#### Read and appreciate

1. Usually a poem is written in a stanza form with a rhyme scheme. Check and find out whether this poem follows any rhyme scheme. You may Compare this poem with the poem, "Seal" given below.

Ans: The poem does not follow any rhyme scheme. But we find rhyme scheme in the poem 'The Seal'.

2. Refer to the last stanza of 'Jazz Poem Two. Do you find anything extraordinary in the shape of the poem? Check the length of each line carefully. Why do you think lines 41, 42 and 43 are different from others? What does it suggest?

Ans: We find a different shape in the poem. They have a raising intonation. Just soaring higher. Stressing again that he is a black man again.

3. The poem is full of images [word pictures]. Some examples are given. Now find as many images as you can in the poem.

Ans: a) wrinkled old face.  
b) sagging stomach  
c) closed eyes  
d) old jacket / run down shoes.  
e) old saxophone across his chest.

4. Is there a simile in the poem? If so identify it.

Ans: Yes, in the very first stanza, a simile is employed. The poem begins with the lines, "there he stands, see? like a black Ancient Mariner." The comparison is between the Black Jazz, musician and the Ancient Mariner in Coleridge's poem. Like the Ancient Mariner, the old jazz, musician feels that he has a message for the people of the world.

#### Some Extra Questions

5) Write about the physical appearance of jazz player? [Apl 2022]

Ans:- Jazz player had wrinkled old face which showed weariness of living. He had his head bent down with eyes closed. His sagging stomach, frayed collar, faded old blue shirt, worn out jacket and rundown shoes created an effect as if they had paper in them.

6. What qualities of the Jazz player do you appreciate? [June 2020]

Ans. The Jazz player was a poor old man who had a weary expression on his face. But when he played music on his saxophone, he was filled with a new life. His music had a power which drew people to listen to him. He was no longer an ordinary man but was like a bird flying higher and higher. At that

moment he would forget everything and would be lost in the beautiful music produced by him.

7. The Jazz player's pathetic life is lifted by his music. Justify. [April 2022]

Ans. Jazz player was like a black Ancient Mariner with wrinkled old face full of weariness of living. He wore a faded blue old shirt, worn out old jacket and run down shoes. They appeared to have paper in them. He had rough unshaven face that brought solitude. He also took an old alto saxophone by wire coat hanger which he started playing. When the Black man was sent to preach Black Gospel of Jazz, he was no longer a Black man. He was a bird flying high, high, higher. Thus an uplifted the spirit of Jazz player

8. Describe the two faces of Jazz player as pathetic figure and a commanding artist. [April 2001]

Ans. The Jazz player in lines 19-25 has been described as a lonely man who is standing with his still down eyes and still closed ears. Yet he seems to be concentrating on the music which comes from the saxophone which hangs across his chest. His ears are trained to listen to that music and enjoy it also

Earlier, we find that the black man is full of worries and sorrow. He is an unhappy man. But when he plays the music to preach Black Gospel of Jazz to the world, he feels that he has been transformed into a bird which flies higher and higher. Then the music stops and the bird once again changes into a black man who belongs to this world. The Jazz player again becomes sad and feels lonely.

9. How does the poet discriminate Jazz player's appearance with his artistic character? [April, 2017]

Ans. The poet describes the old Jazz player and how he is transformed when he plays the music he loves. The Jazz player has a rough unshaven face and sagging stomach. He wears a faded blue shirt, a loose necktie and an old jacket. His shoes are run down. Across his chest is an old alto saxophone supported from his neck by wire coat hanger. The Jazz player at first has a weary expression on his face. He keeps his head down and lifeless. When it is his turn to play, he lifts the saxophone to lips. Suddenly, he is filled with a new life. He is no longer a helpless old man, there is power in his music which draws people to listen. The people say that now he is no longer an ordinary man. He is like a bird flying higher and higher, totally lost in the beautiful music he produced.

10. His run down shoes have paper in them. This suggests that the Jazz player was [July 2021, 2017]

- (a) poor (b) simple  
(c) mad (d) ordinary man

Ans:- (a) poor

11. What did he preach ?

- (a) musical messages (b) Black Gospel of Jazz  
(c) magic (d) religious messages

Ans:- (b) Black Gospel of Jazz

(Contd....)