



CLASS X

ENGLISH LITERATURE READER (POETRY)

CHAPTER 4 - SONG OF THE FLOWER

(KHALIL GIBRAN)

NOTES

SUBSTANCE

“*Song of the Flower*” is a beautiful poem about nature and its relationship with living beings. This poem is written by **Khalil Gibran**, the famous Lebanese poet. This poem speaks about the life cycle of a flower and its experiences. The flower in the poem is a representative of every aspect of nature. The flower says that it is a kind word uttered and repeated by nature’s voice. It is a star fallen from the sky.

All the four seasons play a vital role in the life of the flower. The flower is conceived by winter, given birth by spring, reared by summer and eternal sleep by autumn. The flower heralds the coming of the light in the dawn. It bids farewell to the light in the evening. The flower enjoys nature as much as it can. It sings with the birds and dances according to the rhythm of the swaying grass. The flower becomes a part of joy as well as sorrow because it is used on happy occasions and funerals. The poem teaches us how to deal with life’s struggle, to learn from our past and face the future with confidence and hope.

It describes what living in the world as a flower involves, from sunrises to sunsets to perpetual optimism. The speaker is talking through the voice of a flower.

The first stanzas describe when it is flowers are most active and beneficial to the world. They spread their fragrances through the air and help to announce the sunrise alongside the birds.



The second half of the poem speaks on how flowers are used for different occasions. The speaker says that “I am...” used in a range of objects and events, alongside the living and the dead.

In the final lines the flower-speaker asserts an opinion that humankind needs to look to flowers for advice on how to face the world optimistically.

It is a seven stanza poem which is separated into uneven sets of lines. The longest stanza contains ten lines, and the shortest, three. The poet has chosen not to unify the poem through a consistent rhyme scheme, but instead to make use of repetition at the start of a number of different lines.

POETIC DEVICES USED IN THE POEM

Personification: Personification is a figure of speech in which we attribute human qualities to an inanimate object. In short, it is giving life and voice to an inanimate object.

For instance, in the poem the flower is personified. The speaker “I” is the flower in the poem.

Metaphor: Metaphor is a figure of speech where comparison of two or more different things takes place, suggests a similarity. It is expressing one thing in terms normally denoting another. Some metaphors used in the poem are:

- I am a kind word uttered and repeated by the voice of nature.
- I am a star fallen from the blue tent upon the green carpet.
- As I embrace Slumber the eyes of night watch over me.
- I stare at the sun, which is the only eye of the day.
- I drink dew for wine.
