

Q: Answer the following questions.

1. Why is the whale crying?

Ans. The whale is crying for all its family members that have been killed by humans. We are slaughtering various species for our own benefit. Instead of the whale's live, we are choosing lipstick and polishes and other product that are made of whales.

2. Which lines in the poem tell you what whales were used for?

Ans. The lines "lipstick for our haunted faces, polish for our shoes" tells us that the whales are used for.

3. Bird - high notes, keening / soaring

- a. What are these lines describing?
- b. What does the speaker describe it as keening?

Ans. a) The lines are describing the pain and ~~helpless~~ helplessness of the whale that are crying about their plight, exploitation by humans and fear of extinction. The use of sound conveys a sense of sadness in a whale which encourages us to also feel for the whale.

b) The word 'keening' creates an impression of pain or loss as high-pitched sounds are often associated with pain and grief. The whales are missing their friends and relatives as we

humans keep on killing them for our greed. Thus, they sing the keening songs.

4. What are "painted faces"? How does the speaker feel about them?

Ans. "Painted faces" are faces made up with cosmetic. The poet dislikes them as he is aware that we are killing whales to obtain these beauty products, which is a sheer waste of life.

5. How would you make the whale dumb?

Ans. The word "dumb" suggests something is silent and unable to speak. In this case the whale ~~that~~ has died or is dying and so is no longer able to sing. This line means that man would kill all the whales, making them extinct.

6. Why does the speaker say that we are not choosing life?

Ans. The whales are being killed for our needs and

greed and instead of the lives of the whales we are choosing make-up, polish and other beauty products they provide, instead of letting the whale live, we are choosing luxury items for ourselves.

Q. Why does the speaker say that we are not choosing life?

Ans. The whales are being killed for our needs and greeds and instead of the lives of the whales, we are choosing.

B. Think and answer.

1. Why is the poem titled 'The song of the whale'?

Ans. Whales are high-pitched sound whistling kind of sound to communicate with each other. This appears like a song to human ears. Here, the poet has used the title 'The song of the whale' to emphasize the desperate cry of pain or cry for help from whales against human exploitation. The poet is trying to say that this sorrow is what you will hear in the song.

of whale.

2. Who is the speaker addressing in the poem?
Why does he do that?

Ans. The speaker is addressing a whale in the poem. Speaking to the whale directly, the speaker is telling us that he understands its song and its ~~song~~ pain. By making the whale a 'person' that we can address and talk to, the speaker makes whales more real in our eyes. It makes the reader aware that we are responsible for ~~cause~~ causing a living, breathing, talking, singing creature in pain. The speaker is attempting to make us feel the sorrow of a fellow creature ~~of~~ in the world.

3. What feelings does the speaker wish to convey in the poem? Sadness? Anger? Disgust?
Support your answer with lines from the poem?

Ans. The speaker ~~is~~ is feeling very sad about the whales. The speaker is directly talking to the whales. The whales are being killed by humans without any mistake of them for our greed and

needs. Humans are making many beauty products, shoes, polishes and many cosmetic products. The speaker is very angry towards the humans for killing the whales. So we should not kill the whales.

4. Does the speaker think there is hope yet for the whales? How do we know?

Ans. The poet sees very less hope for the whales as he feels they are ~~so~~ on the edge of extinction and the humans still do not see the emptiness and cruelty of their action. The line 'we will never let you be' projects the hopelessness that the speaker feels.

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