

Read the following poem carefully :

THE LOTUS AND THE BLACK MUD

The lotus in its beauty and brilliance smiles 1
 And dares the sun
 To whom it compares its shape and shine.
 "Thou has not my tenderness,
 Thou has not my fragrance," it says. 5
 The sun just *glares*¹
 And *utters*² not a word.
 Either of censure or of praise !
 The poor black mud
 Nourishing the roots 10
 With soft cool protective touch
 Keeps silent too.
 It is beyond compare
 To either the lotus or the sun
 Nor recognition does it crave ! 15
 Let the world *rave*³ and *revile*⁴
 At the vile *stench*⁵ of mud ;
 The mud knows the Dark Reality
 It just wants to Be !
 It just wants to Be ! 20

VALUE POINTS

About the poem

We find stark reality of things existing in the world. The beautiful and brilliant lotus seeks its sustenance from the black mud.

Lines 1 - 5

the lotus in pride of its beauty compares itself with the sun

Line 6 - 12

The sun bothers not for censure or praise. The humble dark mud nourishing the lotus also keeps silent.

Para 13 - 20

the dark earth craves no recognition, contented with the dark reality of existence of the brilliant and the dark things simultaneously.

GLOSSARY

- | | | |
|-----------|---|-------------------------|
| 1. glares | : | shines brightly |
| 2. utters | : | speaks |
| 3. rave | : | talk excitedly |
| 4. revile | : | criticise strongly |
| 5. stench | : | reek (unpleasant smell) |

11.1 On the basis of your reading of the above poem complete the following summary filling in each blank with one word only.

The lotus is proud of its (a) beauty and so compares itself to the (b) Sun. It feels better, as the sun has no (c) utterance. The sun utters no word of (d) censure or praise. Even the black mud nourishing the roots of the (e) Lotus keeps quiet, as it is not like the lotus or the sun. It does not long for any praise or recognition. It knows that everything has its own place or value.

- 11.2 (i) The word 'brilliance' in line 1 has the same meaning as
- | | |
|------------------|------------------|
| (a) intelligence | (b) dullness |
| (c) wit | ✓ (d) brightness |
- (ii) The word censure in line 8 is opposite in meaning to _____
- | | |
|---------------|---------------|
| (a) criticise | (b) castigate |
| ✓ (c) admire | (d) downplay |