

Assignment

1. Why is the whale crying?

A) 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 whale's live we are choosing lipsticks and polishes and other products that are made of whale.

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

A) The lines "Lipstick ~~for~~ for our painted faces, polish for our shoes tell us that the whales are used for.

3. Bird-high notes, ~~kn~~ kneening/
soaring

a) What are these lines describing?

A) The lines are describing the pain and

helplessness of the whale that are crying about their plight, the 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. Why does the speaker describe it as 'kneening'?

A) The word '~~kn~~ kneening' creates an impression of pain or loss as ~~high~~ 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 kneening songs.

4. What are 'painted faces'? How does the speaker feel about ~~it~~ them?

A) 'Painted faces' are faces made up with cosmetics. The poet dislikes them as ~~it~~ he is aware ^{that} the ~~we~~ ~~are~~ are

killing whales to obtain these beauty products, which is a sheer waste of life.

5. How would ~~like~~ we make the whale's dumb?

A) The word 'dumb' suggests something is silent and unable to speak. In this case the whale 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 that we are not choosing life?

A) The whales are being killed for our needs and greeds. Instead of the lives of the whale, we are choosing make-up, polish and other beauty products they provide, instead of letting the whale's lives, we are choosing luxury items for ourselves.

B.

1. Why is the poem titled "The Song of the Whale"?

A) Whales make high-pitched sound ~~at~~ 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 ~~is~~ 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?

A) The speaker is addressing a whale in the poem. Speaking to the whale directly, the speaker is telling us that he ~~is~~ understands its songs and its pain.

By making the whale 'a person' that we can address and talk to the speaker makes the whale more real in our eyes. It makes the reader aware that we are responsible for causing a living, breathing, talking, singing creature in pain. The speaker is attempting to make us feel the sorrow of a fellow creature in the world.