

National Institute of Open Schooling
Secondary Course : English
Lesson 12 : Indian Weavers-by Sarojini Naidu
Worksheet – 12



1. Read the following stanza and answer the following questions:

Weavers, weaving at break of day,
Why do you weave a garment so gay?
Blue as the wing of a halcyon wild,
We weave the robes of a new- born child.

- 1) Explain the line “Why do you weave a garment so gay?”. Express your viewpoints in details.
- 2) What are the weavers doing at dawn?
- 3) Which stage of human life is mentioned in the above stanza?
- 4) Explain the similarity between the break of the day and the birth of a baby?
- 5) What is a simile? Identify the simile in the stanza.

2. Read the following stanza and answer the following questions:

Weavers, weaving at fall of night,
Why do you weave a garment so bright ?
Like the plumes of a peacock purple and green,
We weave the marriage veils of a queen.

- 1) Describe the garment that the weavers weave at night.
- 2) Describe the hues of the garments that have been woven at the fall night.
- 3) When do the weavers weave the queen’s veil?
- 4) Explain the line “garment so bright”.
- 5) What is the rhyme scheme of the poem? Choose the correct answer.

- Aa bb
- Ab ab
- Abc abc

3. Read the following stanza and answer the following questions:

Weavers, weaving solemn and still,
What do you weave in the moonlight chill?
White as a feather and white as a cloud,
We weave a dead man’s funeral shroud

- 1) Describe why the weavers are solemn and still?
- 2) What are the weavers specifically weaving in the moonlight chill?
- 3) What does “white cloth” symbolize?

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- 4) What do you understand by moonlight chill?
- 5) Explicate the meaning of a “shroud”? Describe the “shroud” mentioned in the above stanza.

4. Distinguish between happy and sad feelings. Choose the words from the passage which describe happy or sad feelings and then put them in the box.

Sad, thrilled, glad, delighted, depressed, excited, dejected, amused, delighted, hateful, sorrow, marvellous, grateful, weepy, crushed, pleased, insecure, content, anger, agitated, raging, enthusiastic

Happy feelings	Sad feelings

5. In the poem the poet describes 3 stages of life what are they? Fill in the blanks with appropriate information.

The poem sums up human life in three main stages using symbols like _____ and _____ -of the day. The life starts its journey with _____ colour representing _____ and _____. Then comes the _____ of peacock, green and purple that represents _____. Finally comes a single colour _____ that represents the last stage of human life when the person _____ and with him the emotions that were connected to life die as well.

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6. Choose the correct meanings from the following options:

1) Robes

- Clothes
- Shoes
- Love
- Attire

2) Veil

- Religion
- A piece of fine material worn by woman to protect or conceal face.
- Hanging cloth
- Camouflaged

3) Solemn

- Happy
- Sober
- Serious
- Unpleasant

4) Shroud

- Wedding gown
- A white colour cloth used when a person dies.
- A baby's garments
- Veil of a queen

7. Complete the following table using your own ideas.

What do I do when I.....

	About oneself
.....get happy?	
.....get bored?	
.....get tired?	

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	About oneself
.....have a free day?	
..... anxious?	

8. Read the words loudly and practice their pronunciation.

Solemn.	Weaving	Shroud
Religious	Veil	Robes
Christian	Halcyon	Unpleasantness

9. Explain the condition of Indian Weavers in post modern India. What are the problems faced by Indian Weavers in present times. Write your answer in about 40-50 words.

10. “Sarojini Naidu was a distinguished poet, renowned freedom fighter and one of the great orators of her time. She was famously known as Bharatiya Kokila (The Nightingale of India). Sarojini Naidu was the first Indian woman to become the President of the Indian National Congress and the first woman to become the governor of a state in India.” Read and gather more information about Sarojini Naidu and prepare a biographical sketch about her.