

ENGLISH

CHAPTER 10: FOR ANNE GREGORY



FOR ANNE GREGORY

~Summary~

-by William Butter Yeast

Stanza- 1

"Never shall a young man,
Thrown into despair
By those great honey-coloured
Ramparts at your ear,
Love you for yourself alone
And not your yellow hair."

Explanation: The poem starts with the speaker addressing Anne Gregory. The speaker says that her beautiful honey-coloured hair can make any man fall in love with her. This love is not for Anne but for her beautiful features. Anne's gorgeous hair have been compared to walls, symbolising outer beauty that prevents anyone from looking inside her soul. This beauty can capture any man's attention so that he may never be able to look beyond that beauty and into Anne's character. This is what makes the speaker believe that no man can love Anne, for what she is, without her beauty. One can love her only for her beautiful yellow hair and her beauty.

Stanza- 2

"But I can get a hair-dye
And set such colour there,
Brown, or black, or carrot,
That young men in despair
May love me for myself alone
And not my yellow hair."



Explanation: In the second stanza, Anne replies to the speaker of the first stanza. She says that what is visible from the outside is very superficial and not important. She gives an example of her beautiful hair, that she can change the colour of her hair and dye them in black, brown or carrot. Just like the colour of her hair is changeable, outer beauty of any kind is changeable and hence not true. She wants to tell the speaker that anyone falling in love with her must see the actual person behind the beauty. Anne thinks that young men, who fall in love with her, must love her for what she is and not for her yellow hair or outward appearance.

Stanza- 3

"I heard an old religious man
But yesternight declare
That he had found a text to prove
That only God, my dear,
Could love you for yourself alone
And not your yellow hair."

Explanation: In the third and final stanza of the poem, the speaker replies to Anne's statement about love for internal and not for external beauty. The speaker mentions an old religious man, who announced that he had found a text in which it is written that only God is capable of looking beyond external beauty. Here speaker means that humans do not have the depth and understanding to look inside the soul of a person. Humans are always carried away by the shine and glitter of outer beauty and they never care to know the person behind the beautiful appearance, Therefore, the speaker concludes that only God can love Anne only for herself and not for her beauty.



Conclusion of For Anne Gregory

God is the supreme being who loves a person for his real beauty, that is his inner beauty, regardless of his external beauty or his body. Humans want to be loved in this manner, but in today's world, people value superficial qualities and looks more than internal attributes. One who loves the soul can capture the heart and can only selflessly love others. Summary of the poem For Anne Gregory is not just a lesson to Anne Gregory but a lesson to all the people that you can't find anyone, other than God who will love you for who you are. There would be a lot of people who will desire you for your external beauty, but only God is the one who admires your inner beauty.



NCERT SOLUTION

Questions (Page No. 135)

(THINKING ABOUT THE TEXT)

Question 1: What does the young man mean by “great honey-coloured /Ramparts at your ear?” Why does he say that young men are “thrown into despair” by them?

Answer: The young man in the poem praises the “great honey-coloured hair /Ramparts at Anne’s ear” to refer to her beautiful yellow coloured hair that gracefully falls behind her ear and covers it like a wall. Her hair is so attractive that young men hopelessly fall in love with her. They are “thrown into despair” because they are enchanted by Anne’s beauty as her hair beautifully falls behind her ear. She is so pretty that everyone wants her which is not possible hence, they are all thrown into despair.

Question 2: What colour is the young woman’s hair? What does she say she can change it to? Why would she want to do so?

Answer: Anne’s hair is yellow in colour just like honey. She says that she can dye it black, brown or carrot colour, which means that she can change it to any colour of her choice. She says so to express that outer beauty can be changed anytime, but that’s not real or permanent. She wants young men to look deep into her soul and wants them to love and appreciate her for her inner beauty rather than her external superficial appearance.

Question 3: Objects have qualities which make them desirable to others. Can you think of some objects (a car, a phone, a dress...) and say what qualities make one object more desirable than another? Imagine you were trying to sell an object: what qualities would you emphasise?

Answer: There are various objects having qualities in our lives that make it desirable to others. Here we bring to you a list of objects that make it desirable to others:

Object	Qualities
Car	Colour, speed, fuel consumption, brand
Dress	Pattern, colour, material, fit
Phone	Brand, technology, user-friendliness, memory, price
Bag	Design, colour, brand, price, style



While selling an object, a person should emphasise on the different features of the product and also help the buyer identify how it is better than other products in the market. Students can also add some points on their own to understand how best an object can be sold to a customer.

Question 4: What about people? Do we love others because we like their qualities, whether physical or mental? Or is it possible to love someone “for themselves alone”? Are some people ‘more lovable’ than others? Discuss this question in pairs or in groups, considering points like the following.

- i. a parent or caregiver’s love for a newborn baby, for a mentally or physically challenged child, for a clever child or a prodigy
- ii. the public’s love for a film star, a sportsperson, a politician, or a social worker
- iii. your love for a friend, or brother or sister
- iv. your love for a pet, and the pet’s love for you.

Answer: Every person has his/her own choices, likes and dislikes. Students are advised to answer the question based on their interpretation and personal experience. As humans, we all have our personal favourites based on our perception and situation in life. It is therefore, not wrong to like some person more than others.

- i. A parent or caregiver’s love for a newborn baby, for a mentally or physically challenged child, for a clever child or a prodigy reflects their attentiveness and concern for them.
- ii. The public’s love for a film star, a sportsperson, a politician or a social worker reflects our admiration and being awestruck about their personality.
- iii. Your love for a friend or brother or sister reflects your love, compassion, empathy and a feeling of togetherness for them.
- iv. Your love for a pet, and the pet’s love for you reflects the unconditional and selfless love towards each other.

Question 5: You have perhaps concluded that people are not objects to be valued for their qualities or riches rather than for themselves. But elsewhere Yeats asks the question: How can we separate the dancer from the dance? Is it possible to separate ‘the person himself or herself’ from how the person looks, sounds, walks, and so on? Think of how you or a friend or member of your family has changed over the years. Has your relationship also changed? In what way?

Answer: Students can write this answer as per their personal experiences. It is recommended that they think about their family and friends and attempt this question based on their interpretation and personal experiences.

Here are some hints that may help you:

- i. Approach a friend or a family member and give it a thought whether you think of them as an individual or their physical appearance takes precedence.



- ii. Every person's way of thinking changes with age. A person needs to check it himself if his thought process has remained the same or improved / degraded with time.
- iii. Every person is unique and we should accept them as they are rather than criticizing them for anything.
- iv. It is well understood that our love and feelings for our loved ones undergo change in due course of time.
- v. We should not judge people superficially for their looks or appearance, rather appreciate the person for his/her positive qualities.

