

Reading Comprehension 6- Poem

Grade 5

The Bangle Sellers

By Sarojini Naidu

Bangle sellers are we who bear
Our shining loads to the temple fair...
Who will buy these delicate, bright
Rainbow-tinted circles of light?
Lustrous tokens of radiant lives,
For happy daughters and happy wives.

Some are meet for a maiden's wrist,
Silver and blue as the mountain mist,
Some are flushed like the buds that dream
On the tranquil brow of a woodland stream,
Some are aglow with the bloom that cleaves
To the limpid glory of new born leaves.

Some are like fields of sunlit corn,
Meet for a bride on her bridal morn,
Some, like the flame of her marriage fire,
Or, rich with the hue of her heart's desire,
Tinkling, luminous, tender, and clear,
Like her bridal laughter and bridal tear.

Some are purple and gold flecked grey
For she who has journeyed through life midway,
Whose hands have cherished, whose love has blest,
And cradled fair sons on her faithful breast,
And serves her household in fruitful pride,
And worships the gods at her husband's side.

Comprehension Questions

1. Who are the speakers in this poem?
2. Where are the bangle sellers taking their goods?
3. According to the poem, for whom are these bangles meant?
4. What colors are mentioned for the bangles meant for maidens?
5. What are the bangles for a bride compared to in the third stanza?
6. Who are the purple and gold flecked grey bangles meant for?
7. How does the poem describe the life of a middle-aged woman?
8. What do the different colors and types of bangles represent in the poem?
9. How would you describe the tone of this poem?

Vocabulary Questions

10. What does "lustrous" mean in the first stanza?
11. Find a word in the poem that means "suitable" or "appropriate."
12. What does "tranquil" mean in the second stanza?
13. What does "limpid" mean in "limpid glory of new born leaves"?
14. The poem uses the word "tokens." What does it mean in this context?

Grammar Questions

15. Identify a simile from the second stanza.
16. Find an example of alliteration in the poem.
17. In the line "Tinkling, luminous, tender, and clear," what part of speech are these words?
18. In the phrase "rainbow-tinted circles of light," identify the adjective that describes "circles."
19. The poem has a specific structure. How many lines are in each stanza?

Answer Key

Comprehension Answers

1. The speakers in this poem are the bangle sellers.
2. The bangle sellers are taking their goods to the temple fair.
3. The bangles are meant for "happy daughters and happy wives" (maidens, brides, and middle-aged women).
4. Silver and blue colors are mentioned for maidens' bangles.
5. The bangles for a bride are compared to "fields of sunlit corn," "the flame of her marriage fire," and her "heart's desire."
6. The purple and gold flecked grey bangles are meant for a middle-aged woman who has "journeyed through life midway."
7. The poem describes a middle-aged woman as one who has "cherished," "blessed," raised sons, serves her household with pride, and worships alongside her husband.
8. The different colors and types of bangles represent different stages in a woman's life and the different emotions and experiences associated with those stages.
9. The tone is celebratory, reverent, or appreciative of women's roles and life stages.

Vocabulary Answers

10. "Lustrous" means shining or glowing with light.
11. "Meet" (as in "Some are meet for a maiden's wrist") means suitable or appropriate.
12. "Tranquil" means peaceful, calm, or quiet.
13. "Limpid" means clear, transparent, or serene.
14. "Tokens" in this context means symbols or representations (of radiant lives).

Grammar Answers

15. A simile from the second stanza is "Silver and blue as the mountain mist."
16. Examples of alliteration include "bridal laughter and bridal tear" or "whose hands have cherished."
17. In the line "Tinkling, luminous, tender, and clear," these words are adjectives.

18.The adjective that describes "circles" is "rainbow-tinted."

19.Each stanza has six lines.

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