**THE VILLAGE BLACKSMITH**

* **- HENRY WADSWORTH LONGFELLOW**
* **Value: “Any necessary work that pays an honest wage carries its own honor and dignity.”**

**ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:**

1. **Where can one find the village blacksmith? What does he look like?**

Ans: The village blacksmith can be found under a spreading chestnut-tree. He is described as a mighty man with large and sinewy hands, strong brawny arms, and crisp, black and long hair. His face is tan and his brow is wet with sweat. These physical attributes signify the blacksmith’s dedication, strength and integrity in his work.

**2. List the poetic devices used in the poem ‘The Village Blacksmith’.**

Ans: Repetion, simile metaphors and hyperbole.

1. ***And looks the whole world in the face***

**Why do you think the blacksmith can look at the world in the face?**

Ans: The blacksmith can look at the world in the face because he is confi dent and honest. This expression implies that he has nothing to hide or be ashamed of, indicating pride in his work and a fulfilled life.

1. **What about the blacksmith’s forge fascinates the children?**

Ans: The children are fascinated by the blacksmith’s forge because they love to see the flaming forge, hear the powerful roar of the bellows and catch the burning sparks that \_ y like chaff from a threshing- floor. The sensory experiences of the sights, sounds and flying sparks create an engaging and captivating scene for the children, contributing to their fascination with the blacksmith’s workplace.

1. **What does the blacksmith do on Sundays? What makes his heart rejoice?**

Ans: On Sundays, the blacksmith goes to the church and sits among his boys. His heart rejoices when he hears the parson pray and preach, and especially when he hears his daughter’s voice singing in the village choir. The sound of his daughter’s singing, reminiscent of her mother’s voice in Paradise, brings joy to the blacksmith’s heart during the church service.

**6. Toiling,—rejoicing,—sorrowing,**

**Justify all the three words with examples from the blacksmith’s life.**

Ans: The blacksmith engages in toiling through his daily, labour-intensive work at the forge. The physical exertion, the swinging of the heavy sledge and the constant use of the bellows demonstrate the hard work he puts into his craft.

Rejoicing is depicted through the blacksmith’s moments of joy, such as when he hears his daughter’s voice singing in the village choir during the church service. This moment of familial and community connection brings happiness and celebration to his life.

The element of sorrow is evident when the blacksmith thinks of his late wife. The poet describes how he must think of her once more, recalling her resting place in the grave. The act of wiping a tear from his eyes with his hard, rough hand signifies a moment of sorrow and reflection on his loss.

**7.The blacksmith serves as a role model who balances his job with the role he plays with his family and community. Explain.**

Ans: The blacksmith serves as a role model by demonstrating a balanced integration of his work, family and community responsibilities. He is dedicated to his craft, which is evident in his toiling at the forge from morning till night. Despite the demands of his work, he also fulfills his role within the family and community. On Sundays, he attends church, sits among his boys and participates in the communal worship. The joy he derives from hearing his daughter sing in the village choir not only reflects a strong familial connection but also highlights his supportive presence in community activities. The blacksmith’s ability to balance his job with his involvement in the church and family life serves as an example of a well-rounded and admirable approach to life. His character reflects the importance of not only excelling in one’s professional life but also maintaining meaningful connections with family and community, making him a positive role model for others.

**8. There is a lot of praise in the poet’s tone about the blacksmith. What are the three main lessons that he would like to replicate? Justify.**

Ans: Hard work and dedication: The blacksmith’s toiling at the forge, from morning till night, portrays a strong work ethic and unwavering dedication to his craft. This aspect emphasises the importance of hard

work and commitment in achieving success and fulfilment. Family and community connection: The blacksmith’s involvement in family and community activities, such as attending church, sitting among his boys, and rejoicing in his daughter’s singing, underscores the significance of maintaining strong bonds with family and actively participating in communal life. This highlights the importance of nurturing meaningful relationships beyond professional endeavours. Integrity and honest living: The portrayal of the blacksmith as someone who looks the whole world in the face and owes no one suggests a life lived with integrity, honesty and transparency. This lesson conveys the poet’s admiration for ethical living, emphasising the value of maintaining a clear conscience and genuine interactions with others.

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