

**LAKE ISLE OF INNISFREE**  
**--WILLIAM BUTLER YEATS**

**Value: 'Peace does not dwell in outward things, but within the soul'.**

**I.**

**Question 1. What kind of place is Innisfree? Think about:**

- 1. the three things the poet wants to do when he goes back there (stanza I);**
- 2. what he hears and sees there and its effect on him (stanza II);**
- 3. what he hears in his "heart's core" even when he is far away from Innisfree (stanza III).**

Answer: Innisfree is a beautiful place where nature is in its full swing.

1. The poet wants to build a small hut of clay and wattles. He will have a nine bean-rows and a hive for the honeybees.
2. He hears peace come dropping and the cricket sing. He sees the midnight shine and a purple glow at noon. Evenings are full of linnet's wings. He feels happy and gets peace of mind.
3. The poet hears the lake water lapping the shore with low sounds.

**Question 2. What are the literary devices used in the poem?**

**Ans: 1. Alliteration:** The repetition of a consonant sound in two or more closely placed words is called alliteration. The instances of alliteration in the poem are –

- a. 'hive', 'honey bee' – 'h' sound is repeated;
- b. 'lake', 'lapping', 'low' – 'l' sound is repeated
2. **Repetition:** 'I will arise and go now' is repeated in stanza 1 and 3
3. **Personification:** morning is personified
4. **Metaphor:** clouds are compared to veils

**Question 3. What is the rhyme of the poem 'The lake isle of Innisfree'?**

**Ans: Rhyme Scheme:** abab

Question 4. By now you may have concluded that Innisfree is a simple, natural place, full of beauty and peace. How does the poet contrast it with where he now stands? (Read stanza III.)

Answer:.

The natural beauty of Innisfree is used and explained in contrast with the roads and pavements in city. The pavement is of grey colour which symbolises decay and death.

Question 5. Do you think Innisfree is only a place, or a state of mind? Does the poet actually miss the place of his boyhood days?

Answer:

The natural beauty of Innisfree is not the creation of the poet's fancy. It is a real place that gives solace to the frustrated souls. The poet longs to live at such a beautiful and peaceful place. He misses it a lot.

## II.

Question 1. Look at the words the poet uses to describe what he sees and hears at Innisfree

1. bee-loud glade
2. evenings full of the linnet's wings
3. lake water lapping with low sounds What pictures do these words create in your mind?

Answer:

1. These words create the picture of the hive and honeybee humming all around. It is in the glade.
2. Linnet is a bird with wings. When it flutters its wings, it looks beautiful. And when the bird sits on a tree amidst beautiful natural scene, it leaves an indelible impression on the minds of the beholder.
3. It is an ordinary but bewitching scene. The waves strike the lake's shore to create a pleasing and soothing sound.

Question 2.

Look at these words;

... peace comes dropping slow Dropping from the veils of the morning to where the cricket sings

What do these words mean to you? What do you think "comes dropping slow ... from the veils of the morning?" What does "to where the cricket sings" mean?

Answer:

These words mean that peace surrounds that area at dawn. The pleasing and melodious sound of cricket greets the morning. It adds sweetness to the serenity of the place.

Question 3.

Why is the poet deeply attached with the Lake Isle of Innisfree? Explain.

Answer:

Innisfree is a simple lake island where the poet has spent his childhood days. The poet is in search of peace and calmness which the Lake Isle of Innisfree can provide him. The environment is natural and peaceful and the poet desires to visit this island. According to the poet, on this island peace comes down slowly in the small drops. Moreover, he is very much attracted by the melodious sounds made by the cricket. In fact that sound has deep impact on the poet. The poet believes the lake's waves hits the shore and

crease at low sound which gives aesthetic pleasure. Really, he wants to visit the island  
Thus, it can be said that he is deeply attached to the lake Isle of Innisfree

Question 4.

What does the lake isle of Innisfree stand for the poet? Is it merely an escapism or a revolt against the superficiality of urban life?

Answer:

The Irish lake isle of Innisfree stands for pure natural beauty, pleasure and peace. It provides a stark contrast to the hectic and artificial life in a city. Amidst the natural surroundings, he will build a small cabin. He will grow beans and build a hive for honeybees. The sounds, sights and music that he enjoys there, haunt him. The isle transcends peace and tranquility. No more the sounds of car and vehicles on the roads. Here what he hears is the sound of honeybees and crickets. It is escapism as well as a revolt against the hectic and artificial life of the city. The sights and sounds of Innisfree never leave him. Even standing on the roadway or on the grey pavement in the city, he hears the low sounds of the lake water lapping by the shore in the core of his heart.