

The Last Bargain

Working with the poem (Page 74)

Question 1:

Who is the speaker in the poem?

Answer:

A daily wage earner who is looking for a job is the speaker of the poem.

Question 2:

“The king, sword in hand” suggests

- (i) wealth
- (ii) power
- (iii) more power than wealth.

Mark the appropriate item in the context of stanza 1.

Answer:

- (ii) power

Question 3:

The old man offered the speaker a lot of money. Why did he turn down the offer?

Answer:

The old man offered the speaker with a bag of gold. From his words, it's evident that the speaker desired for job satisfaction and happiness at work which he felt wasn't possible if he offered his services to the old man who was busy counting his gold coins and weighed it one by one. Due to this reason, the speaker turned down the offer because he valued his freedom more than becoming a slave for money.

Question 4:

Find in the poem, lines that match the following. Read both one after another.

- (i) I have nothing to give you except goodwill and cheer.
- (ii) Her happiness was no more than sorrow in disguise.
- (iii) The king's might was not worth much.

Answer:

- (i) “I hire you with nothing.”
- (ii) “Her smile paled and melted into tears.”
- (iii) “But his power counted for naught.”

Question 5:

How did the speaker feel after talking to the child on the beach?

Answer:

When the speaker met the child who was playing with sea-shells near the beach, he talked with the little one. After talking with the child, the speaker realised that he might not earn a penny, but this made him extremely happy, free and gave him great satisfaction.

