

Indian Weavers

Book Exercise

A2. Answer these questions.

1. Which stage of life does the poet refer to in the first stanza?
Ans The poet refers to the infant stage of life in the first stanza.
2. Describe the type of cloth woven by the weavers, as mentioned in the first stanza.
Ans The weavers are weaving cloth as blue as the wing of a wild halcyon.
3. Do you think the weavers have woven the marriage veils of the queen in purple and green colour for a specific reason? Why do you think so?
Ans Yes, the purple and green colour are associated with royalty and prosperity. They are considered as royal colours. This is the reason why the weavers have woven the marriage veils of the queen in these colours.
4. Why are the weavers described as 'solemn and still' in the third stanza?
Ans The weavers are described as 'solemn and still' because they are in a serious mood as they are weaving a shroud for a dead man's funeral.
5. What does the white colour of a shroud signify?
Ans Shroud is a white cloth that covers a dead body. In Indian culture white colour is associated with unhappiness, serenity and death. Death takes away all colours from one's life. This may be the reason that a shroud is always white in colour.
6. The poem refers to three different stages of a person's life. What is typical of each of these stages?
Ans The three stages that the poet refers to are childhood, youth and old age. The three most significant events in one's life take place in these three stages. They are: ceremonies associated with one's birth as a child, marriage ceremonies in youth and finally death in the old age.
7. Do you think that the weavers are hard-working people?
Ans Yes, the weavers are hard-working people as they are working from morning to night.
8. **Explain the following expression in the context** of their occurrence in the poem:
 - a) A halcyon wild
 - b) Fall of night
 - c) In the moonlight chill

Ans a) The poet compares the colour of the cloth woven by the weavers to the colour of the mythical bird halcyon.

b) Fall of night means the approaching of night.

c) Moonlight chill means cold night.

