

SUPPLEMENTARY READER

Lesson-1

In Memoriam

Q-1 Who was the old man and why was he weeping?

Ans The old man was David's father. He was weeping because David had been killed on the battlefield.

Q-2 What was the work that has been left undone?

Ans The work that had been left undone was the war.

Q-3 How were the memories of the soldiers different for the fathers and the officer?

Ans For the fathers, the memories of the soldiers were that of the life they had shared back home. But The officer lived with the memories of all fifty soldiers fighting alongside him in the battle.

Q-4 Look at how the word 'only' has been used by the poet. What meaning does it convey each time?

Ans the first stanza 'only' is used to say that David's father had only one son. In the third stanza 'only' Is used to say that the old man was father to only David whereas the officer considered all the fifty Soldiers under him as his sons. In the fourth stanza 'only' is used to suggest that the fathers could Visualize their sons as little helpless babies and as young men whereas the officer had to see them in Their dying moments as well.

Q-5 In what way were the soldiers more the poet's sons than their fathers'?

Ans soldiers were more the speaker's sons than their fathers' because the fathers could only see Them as little helpless babies and young men in their prime but the poet was present with them When they were dying and held them in their last moments.

Q-6 What do you understand by 'the arch of the guns'?

Ans The phrase 'the arch of the guns' means accompanied with guns.

Q-7 Pick out the lines that show vividly the contrast between the men as they were and as they became.

Ans Happy and young and gallant,

They saw their first-born go,

But not the strong limbs broken

And the beautiful men brought low,'

B Appreciation

Q-1 With the help of your teacher, identify the rhyme scheme of the poem.

Ans Rhyme scheme of the first two stanzas is *abcbeded*. In the last three stanzas the rhyme scheme is *Abcbdefe*.

Q-2 The poet says that the men trusted him. By the end of the poem, what feelings does the poet have regarding this trust? Does he feel proud, happy or guilty?

Ans At the end of the poem the poet is feeling guilty and helpless. His fifty sons looked up to him for Guidance. They called him for help before dying but he couldn't save them all. He had to witness a Lot of deaths.

Q-3 Look at the repetition of *and* in stanza 1. What effect does it create?

Ans The repetition of *and* in stanza 1 is used to convey the never-ending sorrow of David's father Because of his son's untimely death.