

No Men Are Foreign

Thinking About The Poem

1. (i) "Beneath all uniforms. .." What uniforms do you think the poet is speaking about?

(ii) How does the poet suggest that all people on earth are the same?

Answers (i) The uniforms refer to those worn by soldiers belonging to different countries who indulge in wars and fights.

(ii) The poet says that all the people are the same in the following ways –

We belong to one human race

We walk on the same Earth

Upon death, we will lie in our graves in the same Earth

During peace we all enjoy the bounties of nature

During war and in the winter season, we all starve due to shortage of food

We all do a lot of labour with our hands

We have eyes which function in the same way

2. In stanza 1, find five ways in which we all are alike. Pick out the words.

Answers The five words which indicate that we are all alike are –

We walk

We breathe

We have eyes

We work with our hands

We enjoy the bounties of nature

3. How many common features can you find in stanza 2? Pick out the words.

Answers There are three common features in stanza two. They are as follows–

We enjoy the bounties of nature and eat good food during peace

We starve during war and in winter season.

We have similar hands which we use for doing labour

4. "...whenever we are told to hate our brothers ..." When do you think this happens? Why? Who 'tells' us? Should we do as we are told at such times? What does the poet say?

Answers The leaders of any country tell the masses to hate the people of another country. They say so to fulfil their personal gains and benefits. The poet says that we should not follow them because when we hate our brothers, we hate and belittle ourselves. When we indulge in wars, we pollute and render the mother Earth impure by laying dead bodies on it.