

CLASS VI

The Banyan Tree

by Rabindranath Tagore

QUESTION & ANSWERS

Q 1: Why does the speaker call the tree Shaggy-headed? What caused the tree-top to become like this?

Answer: The speaker calls the tree Shaggy-headed because the branches of the tree are long, thick and twisted giving it an untidy appearance.

The tree-top became like this because many years ago, birds had nested in its branches, children were playing around it but now, all have left the tree alone.

Q 2: In what way does the speaker compare himself with the birds that used to live in the branches of the Banyan tree?

Answer: The speaker has compared himself with the birds that used to live in the branches of the Banyan tree because the banyan tree has forgotten both of them who played and rested in the shadow of the branches of the tree.

Q3: Stanzas 3 and 5 tell us what happens near the Banyan tree and how it appears to an observer. Describe in your own words, what takes place, the scene created and the effect produced.

Answer: There was a pond near the Banyan Tree where the women used to come to fill up their water jugs, the sunlight dances on the water and the animals play. Through this scene, the poet wants to appreciate the beauty of nature as well as he is reliving the fond memories of his childhood.

Q4: What would the child sit and think about? Why does he think about these things?

Answer: The child wished to be a bird and perched on the tree's topmost twig. He wanted to fill the water jugs himself and he was also wondering about the tangles of the roots of the tree.

He thought about these things because these things were of the past. Now, he is talking to the banyan tree that whether the tree remembers his childhood or not.

Q 5: How does the child's interaction with the tree in stanza 2 differ from the way he wishes to interact with the tree in stanza 6?

Answer: In the second stanza, the little boy is trying to recall all the memories that he spent under the Banyan tree.

But in the sixth stanza, he is now trying to sit on the topmost of the twig like birds and want to float like a duck under the huge Banyan Tree.

Question 6:

Write True or False:

- (a) The banyan tree has neat and tidy branches and leaves – False
 - (b) The tree does not remember all the birds that have made nests in its branches – True
 - (c) The tree stands next to water – True
 - (d) The woman filled their jars with shadows – False
 - (e) The child used to sit and look at the banyan tree – True
 - (f) The author compares the sunlight on the water to the making of fabric – True
 - (g) The banyan tree was asleep when the woman came to fill their jars – False
 - (h) The child wanted to be different elements of nature mentioned in the poem – True
 - (i) The ducks swam close to the shore of the pond – True
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