

1. What is the song Wandering Singers about?

Ans. The song is about a band of folk singers who wander from city to city and from village to village to spread the message of love through their singing. They play the lute; as they roam from place to place, they are a musical instrument.

2. Do the singers stay at one place or do they wander about? What determines where they go?

Ans. They wander about from one place to the other. The call of the wind determines where they go.

3. What do the singers sing about?

Ans. The Wandering Singers' song is about tales of ancient battles or of ancient kings. They also have songs about women's beauty as well as happy and sad things. All mankind is like their extended family and their home is the world.

4. How do the singers sing?

Ans. The singers sing songs with lutes in their hands and travelling from place to place.

5. Are the singers homeless travellers? Why do you think so?

Ans. No, the singers are not homeless. They think that the world is their home and people are their brothers and sisters.

6. What do the singers sing about?

Ans. They sing about the stories of the cities whose beauty has long passed away; the women's happiness and beauty that was robbed either by the wars or by the time. They sing about ancient battles as well or about old kings. They have songs about life's simple, happy and sad things, too.

7. What has happened to the cities?

Ans. It has been ravished by wars, famine etc., so, the beauty has gone.

8. What does, "The laughter and beauty of women long-dead" mean?

Ans. The laughter and beauty have died because of wars or because of famine.

9. What songs do the singers sing of the sword of old battles?

Ans. They sing about the brave warriors who fought bravely with the sword.

10. Why do the singers feel nostalgic of the crown of old kings?

Ans. They feel nostalgic because, during the kings' period, these singers used to get rewards which made them lead a comfortable life.

Reference to context

1. "What hope shall we gather, what dreams shall we sow?" Explain these lines.

Ans: The poet tells us that because of their wandering nature, wandering singers can not have any hope or dream of a bright future.

Who is the speaker in the poem Wandering Singers?

Wandering singers themselves are the speakers in the poem Wandering Singers. They tell how they travel and sing.

What are the poetic devices/figures of speech used in the poem Wandering Singers?

Following poetic devices/figures of speech have been used in the poem Wandering Singers by Sarojini Naidu.

Metaphor: It is a poetic device which is used to make a comparison between two things that aren't alike but do have something in common. e.g. voice of the wind probably refers to the changing seasons or changing times or changing lands, street refers to cities and forests refer to villages.

Personification: It is the attribution of human characters to non-human things and animals. e.g. "sorrowful things" refer to humans who are sorrowful, "the wind calls" means they follow the wind.

What kind of life do the wandering singers lead?

The wandering singers live a nomadic life. They do not have a family or home. For them the whole world is their home and all the people are their family. They keep moving from villages to urban areas and vice

versa. On the way, they keep singing about different things.

Why do the wandering singers not wait anywhere? Why do they keep travelling?

The wandering singers do not wait anywhere because they live a nomadic life. They do not have their own homes or families. For them, the whole world is a home all the people are their family. They do not have any hopes or desires. For them, the fate of the wind is their fate. Hence they keep travelling from villages to cities and from cities to forests.

What determines the next destination of the wandering singers?

The direction of the wind determines the next destination of the wandering singers.

The wandering singers have no permanent homes and families. Do they show any sadness about it? Or do they have a different notion of family and home?

Although the wandering singers do not have any permanent home or family, they do not show any sadness about it. In the line 'All men are kindred, the world is our home,' the wandering singers tell us that they consider everyone their family and the whole world their home. So they feel a bond with everyone and at home anywhere and everywhere.

Why do you think the speaker uses, the words, 'wander' and 'roam' and not 'march'?

Ans. The words 'wander' and 'roam' mean walk or move in a relaxed, unhurried manner, with no fixed purpose. The words 'march' and 'stride' mean to walk quickly with a purpose in a specific direction. The first two words have been used instead of the others because the wandering singers are never in a hurry, they have no fixed destination or place to reach. They move in a relaxed pace, going wherever they feel like going, free to change direction as often as the wind.