

# Writing Explanation

with

# Reference to the Context

from *Chronicles of Times*

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# 1. Objectives

The presentation aims at -

- teaching you to explain the given abstract/passage with reference to the context.
- developing skills of subjective reading i.e., interpretation of and reaction to the attitude, tone of the poet.
- developing writing skills by reading through the text to relate the passage to thematic organisation.
- equipping you to explain the poetic devices.

## 2. Format

- To attempt an explanation of a passage divide your answer in to two sub-headings.
  - (a) Reference to the context
  - (b) Explanation

### 2.1 Writing Reference to the Context

#### Step-I

- Begin by mentioning the name of the poem and the poet of that particular poem.

*For example:*

These lines have been taken from the poem \_\_\_\_\_  
written by \_\_\_\_\_

or

This is an extract from the poem \_\_\_\_\_ written  
by \_\_\_\_\_

or

These lines occur in the poem \_\_\_\_\_ written by \_\_\_\_\_

## Step-II

- Briefly describe the context/situation in which the chosen lines occur.
- Identify the order/place in the poem i.e., whether the lines under reference happen to be the opening or concluding lines, whether it is the first stanza or the last stanza or it occurs in the middle of the poem.
- Identify the form of the poem whether it is a sonnet, lyric, dramatic monologue, ode or ballad etc. You may incorporate this information while referring to the context of the given passage e.g.; This is the first/second etc. stanza of the sonnet/lyric etc. ....

### Important points to remember

- You should be able to identify the poem, name the poet and locate the passage in the poem.

## 2.2 Writing Explanation

### Step-I

- Give a simple and brief meaning of the passage.
- Look for the hidden meaning conveyed through poetic devices. Make a mention of similes symbols, metaphor, personification, imagery etc. if any used by the poet in the given lines.

### Step-II

- Bring out the meaning of these poetic devices.

### Step-III

- Relate the underlying relevance and beauty of these poetic features by way of commenting on their effect in the poem.

## 4. Sample Explanations

Take examples based on earlier presentations

*"She ..... Things"*

### Reference to the Context

- These lines occur in the lyric 'Three Years She Grew in Sun and Shower' written by William Wordsworth.
- The poem expresses the poet's faith that nature can play a vital, educative and formative role in shaping human character and personality.
- In lines under reference Nature declares her scheme and means to in still virtues in her adopted daughter.

### Explanation

- The poet declares that Lucy will become playful and joyous like young deer who frolics gleefully in valleys and mountains.

- **Lucy would at the same time acquire calmness and serenity as she would move among mountains, springs and plains inhaling unpolluted, refreshing fragrant breeze.**
- **The poet expresses his faith that Nature nourishes physical as well as emotional health. He compares Lucy to a fawn and imagines her to grow a 'sportive fawn' and present Lucy as a vibrant person through this romantic imagery. The expression 'mute insensate things' refers to common, silent, unnoticeable objects of nature. The poet says that the surroundings that she lives in will have a restraining influence on Lucy. Thus exercising a balance of elation and equability.**



***"Doth ..... wait"***

## **Reference to the Context**

**This is an extract from the sonnet 'On His Blindness' written by John Milton. It depicts the troubled state of the poet's mind. The poem begins on a note of despair. The poet is upset over his predicament. The untimely loss of vision troubles him as he would not be able to use his poetic skill. These lines show that finally the poet's doubts are resolved and he develops an attitude of submission to God's ways.**

## **Explanation**

**The poet fails to understand how God expects service from him when he has suffered a crippling loss. He questions foolishly whether his master still expects him to write poetry.**

**'Patience' the poet's 'inner voice' answers that God does not want His gifts back. He is like a king who rules this universe. Thousands of angels are at his beck and call those who resign themselves to His will render best service to Him.**

**The poet personifies 'Patience'. Patience, the inner voice of the poet forestalls his anguish. Milton makes figurative use of the expression 'Mild Yoke'. He implies that God is the master and man is under His yoke. In other words, the master demands nothing more than obedience and a will to serve.**