

CBSE CLASS XI WORKSHEET (SET A)

Poem: "The Laburnum Top" by Ted Hughes

English Core (Hornbill)

Time Allowed: 45 Mins

Max Marks: 25

EXTRACT-BASED SOURCE MATERIAL

*The Laburnum top is silent, quite still
In the afternoon yellow September sunlight,
A few leaves yellowing, all its seeds fallen.
Till the goldfinch comes, with a twitching chirrup
A suddenness, a startlement, at a branch end.*

SECTION A: EXTRACT-BASED QUESTIONS — [8 MARKS]

Q1. What is the condition of the Laburnum tree before the goldfinch arrives? (1 Mark)

Q2. Which poetic device is used in the phrase "yellow September sunlight"? (1 Mark)

- (a) Simile
- (b) Alliteration
- (c) Metaphor
- (d) Oxymoron

Q3. What causes the "suddenness" and "startlement" at the branch end? (2 Marks)

Q4. What does the "yellowing" of leaves and "fallen seeds" signify about the season? (1 Mark)

Q5. State whether the following statement is TRUE or FALSE: (1 Mark)

The arrival of the goldfinch makes the tree even quieter than before.

Q6. Find a word from the extract that means "a sudden quick movement of a body part". (1 Mark)

SECTION B: SHORT ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS — [12 MARKS]

Q7. Why is the goldfinch compared to a lizard in the poem? (3 Marks)

Q8. What acts as the "engine" of the bird's family, and how does the bird "stoke" it? (3 Marks)

Q9. What does the phrase "barred face identity mask" mean? Explain. (3 Marks)

Q10. How does the behavior of the bird change from the time she enters the tree to the time she leaves it? (3 Marks)

SECTION C: LONG ANSWER TYPE QUESTION — [5 MARKS]

Q11. Discuss the relationship between the Laburnum tree and the goldfinch bird. How do they help or fulfill each other? (5 Marks)