

## "Village Song"

### Textual questions & answers:

A. Answer the following questions in one or two words.

1. Who is the poet of the poem "Village Song"?

Ans: The poet of the poem "Village Song" is Sarojini Naidu.

2. What tempted the girl to tarry?

Ans: The boatman's song tempted the girl to tarry.

3. Who will smite the village girl?

Ans: Some evil spirits will smite the village girl.

4. What will bite the girl in the darkness?

Ans: A serpent will bite the girl in the darkness.

5. What words does the speaker utter when fear overcomes her?

Ans: The speaker utter "Ram re Ram! I shall die" when fear overcomes her.

B. Answer the following questions in a few words.

1. What will be the mother's reaction?

Ans: The mother will be very worried about the girl thinking her daughter being in danger as she has not returned home even after it is dark. She will wait and weep for her. She will pray to God for her safety as the Jamuna River is deep.

2. Why will the speaker's brother murmur?

Ans: The speaker's brother will murmur with concern and worry mounting to arrogance as to why does his sister linger and not return home promptly before nightfall.

3. What are the things the speaker is afraid of?

Ans: The speaker is afraid of darkness, a serpent, an evil spirit, a storm, and lightning.

4. With what are the shadows of the evening compared?

Ans: The shadows of the evening are compared with blackbirds spread out in the sky.

5. How does the girl realise that the night is approaching?

Ans: On hearing the white crane calling and the wild owl crying the girl realizes that the night is approaching.

C. Answer the following questions briefly in your own words.

1. What does the girl in the poem say about her mother and brother?

Ans: The girl is late in returning home from the river and she can feel the concern and annoyance of her brother. She is sure that he will murmur that his little sister ought not to have lingered behind.

On the other hand her mother will wait and will be worried about her safety. She would weep and pray to God for her safe arrival at home as the waters of Jamuna are too swift and deep and the darkness of the night too has spread out which can create harmful circumstances for her daughter.

2. What do the birds referred to in the poem symbolize?

Ans: The reference to "white crane calling" and "the wild owl's cry" symbolizes the approaching darkness. Again, the comparison of the dark evening with gathering blackbirds in the sky is suggestive of the fear and anxiety of the small girl.

3. "Ram re Ram! I shall die"-Why does the girl utter these words?

Ans: The young girl's faith on God is reflected when she utters "Ram re Ram! I shall die". She utters these words in the hope that her savior Lord Ram will rescue her from the impending danger.

D. Give suitable answers to the following.

1. Describe the feeling of the girl in the course of the poem.

Ans: The village girl in the poem went to the river Jamuna to fetch water. She was late in returning home being lured by the boatman's song. It was getting dark and her way home was long and lonely and she was afraid as darkness was approaching. The white crane was calling and the owls were crying and also there was no moonlight. She was afraid wondering what would happen to her if a serpent would bite her, or if an evil spirit would smite her.

She thought that her brother would be angry with her for being late and her mother will be very worried about the girl as she has not returned home even after it is dark. She will wait and weep for her. She will pray to God for her safety as the Jamuna River is deep. The girl was further scared thinking about what would happen to her if a storm came then, where would she hide herself from lighting. The sky was getting even darker. At this hour of trouble, she prayed to God for his help and guidance.

2. How does Sorojini Naiddu represent the form and spirit of the Indian folklore in the poem "Village song"?

Ans: The poem develops a story with the maiden as the central character. The village girl in the poem went to the river Jamuna to fetch water. She was late in returning home being lured by the boatman's song. It was getting dark and her way home was long and lonely. She was afraid as darkness was approaching. The white crane was calling and the owls were crying and there was no moonlight too. She was afraid wondering what would happen to her if a serpent should bite her, or if an evil spirit should smite her. She thought that her brother would be angry with her for being late and her mother will be very worried about the girl as she has not returned home even after it is dark. She will wait and weeping for her. She will pray to God for her safety as the river is deep. The girl was further scared thinking about what would happen to her if a storm came then, where would she hide herself from lighting. The sky was getting even darker. At this hour of trouble, she prayed to God for his help and guidance.

Like any other Indian folklore the poem "Village Song", depicts a pastoral scene and situation with the village girl going to the river to fetch water. The villages in the past did not have running water facilities and women had to go and fetch water from different water bodies like ponds, wells and rivers, and people had to travel a long way to fulfill the basic need of water. The description of the evening is typically of a village. And the girl's use of the phrase "Ram re Ram! I shall die" to express her helpless situation lends to the poem an indigenous touch. It is also prominent in Indian

folklore that calling lord Rama's name keep the evil spirits away. Thus, through the depiction of the rural scenes, situations, characters, etc. the poet Sarojini Naidu represents the form and spirit of Indian folklore in the poem "Village Song".