

Comprehension Passages

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MTWTFSS

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1. In what sense is poetry the language of the imagination and the passion?
2. How is poetry the universal language of the heart?
3. What is the difference between history and poetry?
4. Explain the phrase: 'Man is a poetical animal'.
5. What are some of the actions which Hazlitt calls poetry and its does as a poet?

Ans 1: Poetry is the language of imagination and passion because it provides immense pleasure to the reader. Poetry deals with all the passionate emotions like: fear, hope, love. Moreover, it also includes the beauty of natural objects like; growth of a flower, motions of the waves of sea. Therefore, in this sense poetry is the language of the imagination and passion.

Ans 2: Poetry is the universal language of the heart in a sense that as human being, one's heart is fond of nature and its beauty. Poetry takes birth from all of the beautiful phenomenon; how powerful and strong are the waves, how the bud grows into a beautiful flower. Hence, poetry becomes the universal language of heart as it appeals to all humans.

Ans 3: History includes all of the most cumbersome and serious affairs like; how the world operated during wars, how the different states interacted throughout centuries. However, poetry is the stuff of which our life is made. All of the passionate emotions like; hope, love, fear, hatred, are all the subjects of poetry. Without poetry, a man's life would be like the life of a beast.

Ans 4: Poetry surrounds all the aspects of human life. When a child plays or repeats the stories, or someone who expresses love to his mistress, or someone who enjoys natural beauty, they all are said to be poets as they are appreciating the beauty of life. If someone contempts poetry, he does not respect himself, and would be considered as an animal. Hence, man is a poetical animal.

Ans 5: According to the author, the child who plays hide and seek or repeats the stories, boy who expresses his love to his mistress, the country man who enjoys the scenic beauty, the miser when he hugs his gold, the ambitious, the proud, the hero, the King, are all poets. Because they all are making a world of their own, and the poet exactly describes what all others think and act. Therefore, Hazlitt has called all of these people 'poets' and their actions 'poetry'.