

2. No Men are Foreign

Summary:

The poem No Men are Foreign by James Kirkup conveys a powerful message of universal brotherhood and equality. It emphasizes that all human beings, regardless of nationality, race, or culture, are fundamentally the same. The poet reminds readers that differences are superficial, and harming others ultimately harms ourselves. By promoting empathy and rejecting war, hatred, and prejudice, the poem advocates for peace and unity among all people.

Question answers:

1. Who is the poet of the poem "No Men Are Foreign"?

Answer:

The poet of the poem "No Men Are Foreign" is James Kirkup.

2. What does the poet mean by "No men are foreign and no countries strange"?

Answer:

The poet means that no person or country is different or inferior. All humans share the same Earth, breathe the same air, and have similar emotions. Artificial boundaries like nationality, religion, and race are man-made and should not divide us.

3. What is meant by "Beneath all uniforms, a single body breathes"?

Answer:

The phrase means that soldiers from different countries, despite wearing different uniforms, are human beings at their core. They share the same physical and emotional qualities, regardless of their nationality.

4. How are we alike according to the poem?

Answer:

According to the poem, we are alike because:

We share the same physical body.

We breathe the same air.

We live and die on the same Earth.

We experience similar joys, pains, and struggles.

This shows our common humanity.

5. What does the poet mean by “Their hands are ours”?

Answer:

The poet means that the hands of people in other countries work just like ours. They toil and labor to fulfill their needs, just as we do. This emphasizes that their struggles and efforts are similar to ours.

6. What are the “harvests” that can be spoiled in war?

Answer:

The "harvests" refer to both literal crops that grow on the Earth and the metaphorical fruits of peace, love, and hard work. War destroys these harvests by causing destruction, loss of life, and suffering.

7. What does the poet say about hate? Why does he call it a betrayal?

Answer:

The poet says that hate causes division among humans. He calls it a betrayal because hating others means forgetting that we are all interconnected as human beings. By hating others, we harm ourselves and disrupt peace.

8. How does the poet describe the impact of war in the poem?

Answer:

The poet describes war as destructive and harmful. It ruins the environment, damages the land, pollutes the air, and disrupts human lives. War goes against the unity and shared humanity that binds us all.

9. What is the significance of the Earth in the poem?

Answer:

The Earth is significant as it is a shared home for all humans. It symbolizes unity and equality. Regardless of

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differences, everyone lives, works, and dies on the same Earth, highlighting our interconnected existence.

10. What is the poetic device used in the line “Beneath all uniforms, a single body breathes”?

Answer:

The poetic device used is metaphor. The "uniforms" symbolize different nationalities or divisions, while the "single body" refers to the shared humanity of all people.

11. Why does the poet repeatedly use the word “Remember” in the poem?

Answer:

The poet uses "Remember" to emphasize the importance of unity and to remind us not to forget our shared humanity. It serves as a warning against hatred and war, encouraging us to value peace and brotherhood.

12. What do you understand from the line “It is the human earth that we defile”?

Answer:

The line means that by engaging in war, spreading hatred, or harming others, we are polluting the Earth that belongs to all humans. This destruction is a betrayal of our shared humanity.