

POETRY

Read the poems below and answer the questions that follow:

Poem 1

There is a little hut	1
Built across from here;	
They've mudded two walls	
And the rest stand unmade...	
For they ran out of mud.	5
There is a deep gully	
Running along the road;	
They have filled it halfway	
And the rest is still gaping...	
For they ran out of mud.	10
There is a pot by the altar	
That they began to mould;	
They finished the base	
But the neck remains undone...	
For they ran out of mud.	15
Mud! Mud!	
Who can find mud?	
Maybe if it were gold	
Someone would.	19

1. What is the poem about? (4 Mks)
2. What do the following physical objects represent? (6 Mks)
 - a. The hut
 - b. The deep gully running along the road
 - c. The pot by the altar
3. Explain irony in the last stanza. (2 Mks)
4. Why does the persona refer to 'they' rather than 'you'? (3 Mks)
5. Identify and explain the tone of the poem. (3 Mks)
6. Apart from irony, identify any other stylistic devices used in the poem. (2 Mks)

Poem 2

The face of hunger

I counted the ribs on his concertina chest
Bones protruding as if chiselled
By a sculptor's hand of famine
He looked with glazed pupils
Seeing only a bun on some sky-high shelf
The skin was pale and taut
Like the glove of a doctor's hand
His tongue darted in and out
Like a chameleon's
Snatching a confetti of flies
O! Child
Your stomach is a den of lions
Roaring day and night.

1. What is the message of the poem? (3 Mks)
2. Why does the child see 'only a bun on some sky-high shelf' and why is the shelf 'sky-high'? (2 Mks)
3. Explain the following phrases as used in the poem. (3 Mks)
 - a. ...as if chiselled by a sculptor's hand of famine
 - b. Like a glove on a doctor's hand
 - c. Like a chameleon's
4. Comment on the poet's use of 'concertina chest' and 'a confetti of flies'. (4 Mks)
5. Comment on the effectiveness of the last two lines of the poem. (4Mks)
6. Comment on the use of imagery in the poem. (4 Mks)

ANSWERS

POEM 1

- Rhetorical question- ' who can find mud?'

1. It refers to a child who is suffering from the effects of hunger/ starvation
He has grown thin and worn out
He hallucinates about food that does not exist
He looks helpless and uncared for
Starvation can cause hallucinations
2. He imagines eating a 'bun' but cannot get it.
It is not possible for him to get any food
Food is out of reach
3. He is so emaciated/ thin- as if someone has cut his flesh away
The skin is tight and pale
The flickering tongue shows he is greedy
4. Like the ridges of a concertina, a musical instrument- one can count the ribs on his chest
Coloured flies- of different colours
5. It is effective because a den of lions roaring refers to the rumbling stomach because the child is very hungry.
6. Simile 'like a glove...' refers to the emaciated skin of the starved child
Metaphor 'your stomach is a den of lions'- refers to the sound emanating from the child's stomach.

