

TO BE NOTED DOWN IN YOUR NOTEBOOK :

Introduction : The poem ‘*The Heart of the Tree*’ written by *Henry Cuyler Bunner*, emphasizes on the importance of trees for our survival. Trees are the source of multiple positive impacts for us and our surroundings. They not only beautify the environment, but are responsible for bringing rain, cooling the nature, providing us with wood, timber, fruits and medicines. It is therefore that the poet stresses on the planting of trees for the growth of mankind and for a better and healthy future.

Write down the following KEY POINTS in your notebook, and then answer the questions that follow :

PARA 1 : -

- The poet begins with a question to the readers, where planting of trees does not really mean just as an activity, but something much greater than that.
- The tree has been suggested as ‘a friend of sun and sky’, as one day it would appear to be reaching to the sky, as a friend, as if trying to reach to the sun too.
- The trees are the high and tall towers of beauty, who take in the carbon-di-oxide from the atmosphere, and release oxygen, thereby purifying this nature.
- The trees are a platform for the birds to build their nests, where the mother bird feeds and sings to its young ones, the songs that harmonise the atmosphere with a heavenly touch.
- It is the trees who are responsible for bringing to us the soft and cool breeze, that impart us with a soothing effect created and blessed upon us by the nature.

PARA 2 : -

- The poet begins the second paragraph, again with the same question, so as to make the readers aware of the greater and wider benefits of planting trees.
- A tree, planted as a small sapling grows up one day to a tall and huge tree, and provides us with cool shade and soft rain, that help in the process of germination of the dormant seeds.
- The seeds born from the existing trees, further develop in the future into newer trees, and thus the cycle of birth, death and regeneration continues all by themselves.
- The poet further says that the trees are the heritage of a place, that make the plains look beautiful.
- The trees are thus the harvest of the coming age, which impart happiness even to the coming generations, who are not yet born. Those generations would thus feel to be blessed to be born amidst the greenery and blessings of the trees.

PARA 3 : -

- In the third and last stanza of the poem, the poet talks as a philosopher, with a sense of loyalty, with love for the entire mankind and universe as a whole.
- The poet is thoughtful about the future, as one plants trees does it for the good and benefit of mankind, for the sake of humanity.
- A person planting a tree seems to bless the entire neighborhood, and it is thus that a person planting a tree is described as God-like, with the use of capital 'H' of 'His'
- Such a person therefore holds the growth of all the land, in the progress of mankind, with the growth of which grows the entire land of a nation.
- The poet thus requests all the human beings to plant trees, for the well being of the society. Tree plantation is therefore indeed a "blessing on the neighborhood".

QUES 1. To whom is the poet asking the question in the first line of every paragraph? Why does he adopt such a technique for his poem?

QUES 2. Write any three useful impacts of planting trees for mankind.

QUES 3. Give the meanings of the following phrases as given in the poem :

(a) A friend of sun and sky (b) treble of heaven's harmony

(c) harvest of a coming age (d) far-cast thought of civic good.

QUES 4. In what does the growth of a nation depend on the planting of the trees?

QUES 5. What do you think is the important to read such a poem?

QUES 6. What does the phrase 'unborn eyes' indicate? What would they see that would bring them joy?
