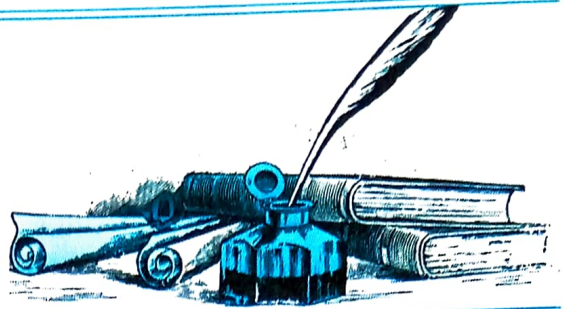


UNIT-1

BREAK BREAK
BREAK

Alfred, Lord Tennyson

Break, break, break,
On thy cold gray stones, O Sea!
And I would that my tongue could utter
The thoughts that arise in me.

O, well for the fisherman's boy,
That he shouts with his sister at play!

O, well for the sailor lad,
That he sings in his boat on the bay!

And the stately ships go on
To their haven under the hill;
But O for the touch of a vanish'd hand,
And the sound of a voice that is still!

Break, break, break
At the foot of thy crags, O Sea!
But the tender grace of a day that is dead
Will never come back to me.

Life of the poet :

ALFRED LORD TENNYSON (6 August 1809-6 October 1892)

Alfred Lord Tennyson is one of the significant names whose creations remain uncorroded through the ages. He flagged up two major and eternal themes which are Law and love in his writings. In his age no other writers were immersed in the practice of art the way he did. Tennyson experienced a suffocating school life for four years. He got his feet wet in writing verses with his brothers and his first

endeavour turned up in a little volume called *Poems by Two Brothers* in 1827. Next year he entered Trinity College, Cambridge where he got so much appreciation for his poetic calibre and there he met his dear friend Arthur Henry Hallam. Two years after his entrance, he achieved the Chancellor's Medal for the poem *Timbuctoo*. Forthwith this achievement he published his first signed work, called *Poems Chiefly Lyrical* (1830). Another volume including *The Lady of Shalott* and *The Lotos-Eaters* was published in 1832. *Break, Break, Break* was his first published elegy which he wrote in an extremely gloomy and melancholic state owing to his friend Hallam's death in 1833.

Most of his verse was based on classical mythological themes, such as *Ulysses*, *In Memoriam A.H.H.* His remarkable works include blank verse including *Idylls of the King*, *Ulysses*, and *Tithonus*. Tennyson's antifeminist *The Princess* is more nuanced and clearly feminist to the marrow. Tennyson is considered the representative poet of the Victorian era. In 1850 Tennyson was appointed poet laureate; and he married Emily Sellwood whom he had loved for thirteen years. His another collection of poems is called *English Idyls*. *Dora*, *The Gardener's Daughter*, *Ulysses*, *Locksley Hall* and *Sir Galahad* are the best among these varied poems. One of the most appreciated of this series is *Enoch Arden*. The message in his works exudes lawfulness in both spiritual and physical world, fidelity, love, peace and order. He took his last breath very calmly at Aldworth. His vigour and nobility is reflected in one of his best known poems, *Crossing the Bar*, which was the last poem he wrote before his death at the age of 81.

Summary :

The speaker addresses the sea to break its waves against the cold gray stones on the shore over and over again. While watching this, the poet yearns for the ability to articulate the disturbing and brooding thoughts his mind is overwhelmed with. The poet watches a fisherman's boy shouting while playing with his sister. He also sees a sailor lad singing in his boat while sailing through the bay. Then the poet notices majestic ships moving slowly in grand style through the bay into a safe, peaceful and heavenly destination under the hill. But this captivating sight could hardly bereave the speaker of the excruciating pain he suffers. The speaker still longs for the touch of a closed one's hand who is no longer alive, whose voice has gone silent forever.

The speaker calls out to the waves again of the sea to break against the craggy coastline. He remembers the warmth and happiness of their friendship that will never come back in the life of the speaker.



MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS (MCQ)

Marks

2

- 1. In the beginning of the poem the repetition of the word 'Break' is an example of—**
 - Epizeuxis
 - Hyperbole
 - Irony
 - Metonymy
- 2. "On thy cold gray stones, O Sea!"—is an example of—**
 - Paradox
 - Apostrophe
 - Simile
 - Anaphora
- 3. The tone of the poem is—**
 - Romantic
 - Sad and nostalgic
 - Pessimistic
 - Humorous
- 4. Tennyson wrote this poem in the memory of—**
 - His deceased mother
 - His deceased wife
 - His deceased brother
 - His deceased friend
- 5. In the first stanza the poet is—**
 - Calling out to the sea
 - Calling out the mountains
 - Talking to his friend
 - Talking to the sand
- 6. The expression 'Cold gray stones' refers—**
 - Reflection of the speaker's internal emotional state
 - Describing the natural beauty
 - Poet yearns to have one of these stones
 - The poet is dead
- 7. To whom does the poet ask to break—**
 - The hills
 - The rock
 - Sea waves
 - Dawn
- 8. The poet asks the sea waves—**
 - To break on its cold gray stones
 - To break on its cold black stones
 - To break on its rough stones
 - To break on its warm black stones

9. The poet wishes his tongue could utter—
Ⓐ The unspoken words of his friend
Ⓑ The dream he has dreamt last night
Ⓒ A scowl toward the fisherman's boy
Ⓓ Troubling thoughts about the transient and fleeting nature of life
10. In the first line the poet addresses—
Ⓐ The sky
Ⓑ The sea
Ⓒ The moon
Ⓓ The stone
11. The sea has been given human qualities, which is called—
Ⓐ Animation
Ⓑ Simile
Ⓒ Personification
Ⓓ Onomatopoeia
12. That the waves crashing against the shoreline represents the idea of—
Ⓐ impermanence
Ⓑ Natural phenomenon
Ⓒ Storm
Ⓓ Gracefulness
13. The poet of 'Break, Break, Break' cannot—
Ⓐ See
Ⓑ utter
Ⓒ Shout
Ⓓ Cry
14. And I would that my tongue could utter the thoughts that—
Ⓐ arise in him
Ⓑ perturbs him
Ⓒ making him shiver
Ⓓ making him happy
15. "That he shouts"-here 'he' is—
Ⓐ Sailor lad
Ⓑ Sailor
Ⓒ Sister
Ⓓ Fisherman's boy.
16. Fisherman's boy plays with—
Ⓐ his brother
Ⓑ his friend
Ⓒ his sister
Ⓓ sailor lad
17. "That he shouts with his sister"—
Ⓐ in dream
Ⓑ on the bay
Ⓒ at play
Ⓓ while singing
18. "O, well" denotes here—
Ⓐ poet's wistful sigh
Ⓑ poet's satisfaction
Ⓒ poet's joy
Ⓓ poet's sense of relief

19. **The sailor lad—**
Ⓐ sings in his boat
Ⓑ Shouts in his boat
Ⓒ Sings at play
Ⓓ Shouts with his sister
20. **The sailor lad sings in his boat—**
Ⓐ on the sea
Ⓑ on the bay
Ⓒ on the cove
Ⓓ on the ocean
21. _____ **sings in his boat on the bay.**
Ⓐ Fisherman's lad
Ⓑ Sailor
Ⓒ Fisherman
Ⓓ Sailor lad.
22. **The word in the poem that has been rhymed with the word 'play' is—**
Ⓐ Clay
Ⓑ Bay
Ⓒ say
Ⓓ Ray
23. **The contrast between the poet's somber state of mind and the description of the Joyous activities of the fisherman's boy, his sister and the sailor lad is an example of—**
Ⓐ Simile
Ⓑ Personification
Ⓒ Irony
Ⓓ Juxtaposition .
24. **In the expression 'Stately ships' stately means—**
Ⓐ majestic and slow moving
Ⓑ Colourful and slow moving
Ⓒ Ships that go to the states
Ⓓ Small and fast moving
25. **The stately ships go on—**
Ⓐ to their haven under the sea
Ⓑ to their haven under the hill
Ⓒ to the heavenly hill
Ⓓ to the haven where his friend stays.
26. **Their haven is—**
Ⓐ under the mountains
Ⓑ under the hill
Ⓒ under the sea
Ⓓ on the hills.
27. **'Haven' means—**
Ⓐ protected port
Ⓑ decorated port
Ⓒ unsafe port
Ⓓ Sea
28. **"And the stately ships go on to their haven under the hill"—is an example of—**
Ⓐ pun
Ⓑ Simile
Ⓒ Euphemism
Ⓓ personification

29. "haven under the hill" is the image of—
 (A) Natural beauty (B) Beautiful landscape
 (C) being buried in earth (D) A hideout
30. 'Ships' is a metaphor for—
 (A) Death (B) Grandeur
 (C) Life (D) Merriment
31. "But O for the touch of a vanish'd hand"—here 'hand' refers to
 (A) the hand of Arthur Hallam (B) the hand of Arthur Hellen
 (C) the hand of Antony Hallam (D) the letters sent by his friend
32. The poet yearns for the touch of—
 (A) his deceased mother's hand (B) his deceased wife's hand
 (C) his deceased brother's hand (D) his deceased friend's hand
33. "And the sound of a voice that is"—
 (A) Ringing (B) Clear
 (C) inspirational (D) still
34. "..voice that is still"—here 'voice' refers to—
 (A) poet's deceased friend's voice
 (B) poet's dumb friend's voice
 (C) poet's sick friend's voice
 (D) poet's friend's singing
35. In the fourth stanza the poet asks the sea to break—
 (A) on the rocky surface (B) at the foot of thy crags
 (C) on the sand (D) stones
36. The repeated action of the poet and the sea evokes a sense of—
 (A) boredom (B) Amnesia
 (C) Death (D) inevitability
37. The expression 'tender grace of a day' suggests—
 (A) the beautiful day the poet got awarded
 (B) the beautiful day he and his friend met for the first time
 (C) the beautiful time he spent with his friend in past
 (D) the day his friend departed his soul

38. "Will never come back to me"—what will not come back to the poet's life?
- (A) The days he spent with his friend
 - (B) his childhood days
 - (C) the days he spent with his sister
 - (D) the days he spent with his beloved wife
39. "And the sound of a voice that is still"—the voice is still because
- (A) he is mute
 - (B) he is shocked
 - (C) he is dead
 - (D) he lost words
40. "But O for the touch of a vanish'd hand"—Identify the figure of speech.—
- (A) Hyperbole
 - (B) Euphemism
 - (C) alliteration
 - (D) Paradox
41. The technique that has been used in the poem is—
- (A) Repetition
 - (B) Allusion
 - (C) Foreshadowing
 - (D) anachronism
42. The repetition is used to—
- (A) emphasize the poet's long and overwhelming grief
 - (B) to show how the poet is moving on in his life
 - (C) the poet has amnesia
 - (D) the poet is angry
43. The thing that will never return to the poet is—
- (A) the glorious days
 - (B) The precious stones
 - (C) the tender grace of a starry night
 - (D) The tender grace of a day.
44. 'Break Break Break' is considered as—
- (A) Sonnet
 - (B) Satirical poetry
 - (C) elegiac poetry
 - (D) dramatic poetry
45. Singing and shouting signifies—
- (A) act of chaos
 - (B) act of fighting
 - (C) act of innocence
 - (D) act of merriment

46. The only permanence in poet's life is—
Ⓐ loss Ⓑ sound
Ⓒ life Ⓓ Smile
47. The theme of the poem is—
Ⓐ Vastness of the sea Ⓑ death and loss
Ⓒ Nature helps to forget pain Ⓓ self love
48. The poem was published in—
Ⓐ 1842 Ⓑ 1824
Ⓒ 1942 Ⓓ 1900
49. The rhyme scheme of the poem '*Break Break Break*' is—
Ⓐ ABAB Ⓑ ABCB
Ⓒ CDCD Ⓓ EFEF
50. 'Sea' has been used as literary device to show—
Ⓐ the natural beauty Ⓑ the power of nature
Ⓒ the idea of impermanence Ⓓ the idea of immortality
51. The sea represents the idea of impermanence as—
Ⓐ the crashing waves no longer exist in their original form
Ⓑ the crashing waves don't touch poet's feet
Ⓒ the waves keep crashing
Ⓓ the waves are cold
52. What is the setting of the poem?
Ⓐ Seashore Ⓑ Heaven
Ⓒ Woods Ⓓ Graveyard
53. The breaking waves symbolise—
Ⓐ Natural beauty
Ⓑ Heartbreak
Ⓒ The ceaseless passage of time and the relentless nature of life
Ⓓ The poet's memory of spending time with Hallam at the seashore
54. "... grey stones"—this expression implies—
Ⓐ A cold and grey mood of mourning
Ⓑ The stones are of grey colour
Ⓒ The corrosion of the stones
Ⓓ None of these above

- 55. The sea is a symbol of—**
- (A) Faith
(B) Tranquility
(C) Natural beauty
(D) Eternity
- 56. The sensory imageries that have been used in this poem are -**
- (A) Touch
(B) Touch and sound
(C) Sound
(D) Sadness
- 57. The sea is the reminder of—**
- (A) Almighty's creation
(B) Life's cyclical nature
(C) Endless pain
(D) Death
- 58. The conclusion the readers arrive at considering the events mentioned in the poem is -**
- (A) Life moves forward relentlessly in spite of the individuals' pain-taking agony
(B) Having lost the near ones one can't move forward in life
(C) Both (A) and (B) are correct
(D) Both (A) and (B) are incorrect
- 59. 'Thy' has been addressed to—**
- (A) The grey stones
(B) The cold stones
(C) The cold and grey stones
(D) The sea.
- 60. When did Hallam die?**
- (A) 15 September 1833
(B) 15 October 1833
(C) 5 September 1833
(D) 15 September 1933
- 61. Tennyson was a _____**
- (A) Revolutionary
(B) Conservative
(C) Patriotic
(D) None of these
- 62. Tennyson is called the representative poet of the _____**
- (A) Pre Romantic period
(B) Romantic period
(C) Victorian age
(D) Modern age
- 63. According to whom Tennyson was "The saddest of all English poets"?**
- (A) Charles Dickens
(B) Emily Dickinson
(C) Chitra Divakaruni
(D) T.S Eliot

- 64. Which poem did Tennyson write three years before his death?**
 (A) Mariana (B) The Lady of Shalott
 (C) The Palace of Art (D) Crossing the Bar
- 65. What is the concept of death in Tennyson's poetry?**
 (A) Death can come anytime and we should accept it
 (B) Death is not physical rather psychological
 (C) Death does not simply terminate life, rather gives dimensions to it
 (D) None of these
- 66. Where did Tennyson meet Hallam? -**
 (A) Oxford University (B) Trinity College, Cambridge
 (C) Friend's house (D) At a party
- 67. Tennyson is called Lord because**
 (A) He is the greatest poet (B) He is rich
 (C) He is a revered poet (D) He's a Baron
- 68. Who gave the title Lord to Tennyson?**
 (A) Arthur Hallam (B) William Gladstone
 (C) His friends (D) None of these above

Answer

1. (A)	2. (B)	3. (B)	4. (D)	5. (A)	6. (A)	7. (C)	8. (A)	9. (D)	10. (B)
11. (C)	12. (A)	13. (B)	14. (A)	15. (D)	16. (C)	17. (C)	18. (A)	19. (A)	20. (B)
21. (D)	22. (B)	23. (D)	24. (A)	25. (B)	26. (B)	27. (A)	28. (A)	29. (C)	30. (C)
31. (A)	32. (D)	33. (D)	34. (A)	35. (B)	36. (D)	37. (C)	38. (A)	39. (C)	40. (B)
41. (A)	42. (A)	43. (D)	44. (C)	45. (D)	46. (A)	47. (B)	48. (A)	49. (B)	50. (C)
51. (A)	52. (A)	53. (C)	54. (A)	55. (D)	56. (B)	57. (B)	58. (A)	59. (D)	60. (A)
61. (B)	62. (C)	63. (D)	64. (D)	65. (C)	66. (B)	67. (D)	68. (B)		