**NO MEN ARE FOREIGN**

**By– James Kirkup**

**STANZA 1**

**They, too, aware of sun and air and water,**

**Are fed by peaceful harvests, by war’s lone winter starv’d.**

**Their hands are ours, and in their lines, we read**

**A labour not different from our own.**

**Questions :**

**(a)  Who do they refer to in this stanza?**

**(b)  What are they fed by?**

**(c)  What are they starved by?**

**(d)  How is labourer different from us?**

**(e)  Name the poet.**

**Answers :**

(a)  They refer to the other people of the world.

(b)  They are fed by peaceful harvests.

(c)  They are starved by long winter

(d)  A labour is little different from any one of us.

(e)  The name of the poet is ‘James Kirkup’.

**STANZA 2**

**Remember they have eyes like ours that wake**

**Or sleep, and strength that can be won**

**By love. In every land is common life ‘**

**That all can recognise and understand.**

**Questions**

**(a) What do the eyes do ?**

**(b)  How can strength be won ?**

**(c)  What is common in every land ?**

**(d)  What can all recognise and understand ?**

**(e)  Name of the poem .**

**Answers :**

(a)  The eyes wake and sleep.

(b)  Strength can he win with love.

(c)   Life is common in every land.

(d)  All can recognise and understand that life is common in every land.

(e)   The name of the poem is ‘No Men Are Foreign’.

***HORT ANSWER QUESTIONS***

**(to be answered in about 30 – 40 words each)**

***Q1.”Beneath all uniforms…” What uniforms do you think the poet is speaking about?  (Textual)***

***Ans:-***The poet is speaking about the dresses or uniforms that armies of different countries wear. Though these ‘uniforms’ are absolutely different in appearance the bodies under them are the same. The poet tries to convey that the differences among the people of different countries are superficial. Essentially, all human beings are the same.

***Q2.Whom does the poet refer to as ‘our brothers’ and why?***

***Ans:-***The poet refers to the people living in other countries as ‘our brothers’. He says so because the superficial dissimilarities of complexion, language, dress, culture and nationality do not, and must not, segregate us as human beings. Human wants, human needs, human hopes, human emotions are the same anywhere in the world.

***Q3.How does the poet suggest (in the first stanza) that all people on earth are the same?***

***Ans:-***In the first stanza, the poet suggests that no human being is strange or different. Beneath the superficial surface of our bodies, we all have similar hearts, minds and souls. We all breathe and live in a similar manner. The earth is our common asset and one day we all shall die and be buried in the same way.

***Q4.What does the poet mean when he says, ‘in which we all shall lie’?***

***Ans:-***The poet means that we all shall lie under the same earth. Here ‘lie’ means to be buried after death. This is to highlight that all of us have to meet the same fate, sooner or later, hence there is no point in hating each other.

***Q5. Why does the poet call harvests ‘peaceful’ and war as ‘winter’?***

***Ans:-***Harvests are called ‘peaceful’ because they bring abundance and prosperity and they thrive in peaceful times only. War, on to the other hand, is like the severe and harsh ‘winter’ that ruins the crops and starves people. It is only the peaceful times that bring harmony and contentment. War destroys everything and forces people to face hunger, poverty, disease and death.

***LONG ANSWER QUESTIONS***

***(to be answered in about 100 – 150 words each)***

***Q1. How does the poem justify that people in all countries of the world are essentially the same?***

***Ans:-***The poet justifies the statement that people living in different countries are essentially the same by asserting that ‘no men are strange’. Every single body breathes and functions in the same way as ours. Each one of us equally needs the sun, air and water. Human hands too are used for the similar purpose of toiling for livelihood. Eyes too perform the similar function of sleeping and waking up. Love wins us all and we all recognise its power. In peace times, we all flourish and wars starve us. Hatred leads us astray and when we take up arms against each other, the entire earth is defiled and destroyed. Therefore, we all like peace which showers abundance and prosperity on us. Therefore, essentially we all are the same.

***Q2. ‘Wars have always brought total ruin in this world, yet they are fought repeatedly.’ Discuss.***

***Ans:-***Wars are the result of over-ambition and greed of irresponsible rulers of the world. They bring ruin both to the victor and the vanquished by shattering the economy of the warring countries. In the past, wars were localised but now they are global and hence more dangerous and destructive. The memories of the First and the Second World Wars are still fresh in our minds. The horrific after-effects of the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945 can still be seen. Still, it is appalling to note that people of the world do not learn from history. The danger of yet another war lurks all the time. The divisive forces are even stronger in the present times and the mad race for armaments too is scary. Hope lies in the strength of the common people who should refuse to be fooled by vested and unscrupulous leaders. Instead, people of the world should look at the world as a global village that offers innumerable opportunities and reasons for peaceful coexistence.