**Chapter- 3**

**RAIN ON THE ROOF**

**By- Coates Kinney**

**SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS**

**(30 – 40 words each)**

**Q1. What do the following phrases mean?**

**Ans:**

* *Humid shadows*: ‘Humid shadows’ here refers to the clouds which are water-laden and shadow or cover the starry sky.
* *Starry spheres*: ‘Starry spheres’ implies the night sky studded with stars.
* What a bliss: ‘What a bliss’ is an exclamatory expression showing great pleasure.
* A thousand dreamy fancies into busy starting: The clause implies that a large number of memories are revived in an otherwise much-occupied mind.
* *A thousand recollections weave their air-threads into woof:* This clause is a metaphorical expression. Recollections are presented as weavers and the particular memories are the threads woven into the fabric of the mind.

**Q2. Describe the weather just before the rain starts.**

**Ans:** As described by the poet, the weather before the rain is humid. It is dark, and the starry night sky is covered by thick clouds just before it begins to rain.

**Q3. What does the poet want to do when it rains?                                                                         (Textual)**

**Ans:** When it rains, the poet wants to lie snugly in his cosy cottage with a soft pillow under his head. He wants to enjoy the rhythmic, soft music of the raindrops falling on the roof.

**Q4.According to the poet, what is nature’s mood in ‘rainy darkness’?**

**Ans:** The poet shows the darkness to be in a melancholy or sad mood. This sadness is further heightened when the poet shows the darkness to be weeping and shedding tears in the form of raindrops.

**Q5. How is the mood of the poet contrasted with the mood of darkness?**

**Ans:** Whereas the darkness is in a sad and gloomy mood, the poet is in a happy mood as he considers it bliss to lie comfortably in bed pressing the head against the pillow and listening to the music made by the showers of the rain.

**Q6. Is the rain referred to in the poem a heavy downpour?**

**Ans:** No, the rain referred to in the poem is not a heavy downpour. Instead, it is soft and gentle as is obvious from the pattering sound made by it while falling on the roof.

**Q7. What is the impact of the tinkle of the raindrops on the poet’s heart?**

**Ans:** The tinkle of the raindrops echo in the heart of the poet as if his heartbeat responds to every sound of the rain by its rhythm. Moreover, the rain kindles many memories in the poet’s mind and he gets lost in dreamy imagination.

**LONG ANSWER QUESTIONS**

**(100 – 150 words )**

**Q1. How does the poet react to the sound of the rain falling on the roof?**

**Or**

**What is the effect of the sound of the rain on the heart and mind of the poet?**

**Ans:** The poet’s heart and mind react strongly to the sound of the rain falling on the roof. He is in a blissful mood as he enjoys the comfort of his bedroom, leisurely listening to the music of the rain. The music stirs a corresponding echo in the heart of the poet. His heartbeat responds to the sound of the rain by its rhythmic throbbing. He gets engrossed in fanciful, dreamy thoughts. Moreover, the rain awakens many memories of the past. Particularly, it revives the memory of his mother as she looked at her children very affectionately before she went to sleep in her room. He recollects the fond, affectionate look of his mother which she cast on him. Thus, the poet’s mind and heart respond sensitively to the soft pattering sound of the rain falling on the roof.

**Q2. Does everybody have a cosy bed? Look around and describe how different kinds of people or animals spend time, seek shelter etc. during rain?**

**Ans:** In the poem “Rain on the Roof”, the poet Coates Kinney relates the various blissful emotions he has while he lies comfortably in his bed. For him, it is pure bliss to listen to the patter of the raindrops falling on the roof. But enjoying this bliss is not a privilege for everyone. There are many poverty-stricken people for whom rain brings a number of difficulties. Some of these people are without shelter, while some live in poor, thatched cottages with leaking roofs. When we look around, we find people reacting differently to the rain. Rich people sit comfortably in the verandas of their luxurious houses and enjoy delicious snacks while watching the rain. Those who are burdened with a busy schedule, feel uncomfortable when they have to run around in the rain. Exposed to the rain, the poor homeless are forced to take cover lest they are drenched in rain.

Animals too are uncomfortable when the rain falls. The domestic animals may be protected but the stray ones have to seek shelter. Thus, rain is not bliss for everybody.