**THE LAKE ISLE OF INNISFREE**  
**W.B. Yeats**

**Word-meanings :**

**Innisfree -** the name of an Island

**Isle** - Island

**clay** - mud

**wattles** - twisted/sticks

**glade** - open space

**Dropping-** falling in drops

**veils** - curtain

**cricket** - a singing insect

**glimmer** - twinkling

**linnet** - a small singing bird

**Lapping** -sound of the water striking gently against shore

**pavements** -footpath

**Arise—**get up

**Cabin—**small hut

**Clay—**thick wet mud

**Wattles—**tree branches

**Bean—**a vegetable

**Hive—**structure made by bees

**Honeybee—**a stinging winged insect that collects nectar and pollen

**Glade—**grass-covered area without trees

**Peace—**calm

**Veils—**thin cloth covering something

**Cricket—**an insect

**Glimmer—**weak light

**Purple—**dark reddish blue colour

**Glow—**shine

**Linnet—**a small grey and brown bird with short beak

**Lake—**large body of water on land

**Lap—**hit gently

**Shore—**edge, bank

**Pavement—** sidewalk.

**STANZA 1**

And I shall have some peace there,

for peace comes dropping slow

Dropping from the veils of the morning

to where the cricket sings;

Their midnight’s all a glimmer, and noon a purple glow,

And evenings full of the linnet’s wings.

**Questions :**

(i)  Who does ‘I’ refer to in the first line?

(ii)  What will the speaker have there?

(iii)  What is the special feature of that land at midnight?

(iv)  How is the evening at that land?

(v)  What land is the speaker talking about?

**Answers :**

(i)   ‘I’ refers to the poet.

(ii)   He will have peace of mind there.

(iii)   That land glimmers’ at midnight.

(iv)  The evenings of that land are MI of small birds.

(v)  The speaker is talking about ‘Innisfree’ island.

**STANZA 2**

I will arise and go now,

for always night and day

I hear the lake water lapping

with low sounds by the shore;

While I stand on the roadway,

or on the pavements grey,

I hear it in the deep heart’s core.

**Questions :**

 (i)   Where will the poet go?

 (ii)   For how long time will the poet go there?

 (iii)  What will the poet hear?

 (iv)  How the poet will hear this sound?

 (v)   Name the poet.

**Answers :**

i)   The poet will go to Innisfree Island.

(ii)   He will go there forever.

(iii)   The poet will hear the lapping sound of the water against the shore.

(iv)   The poet will hear this sound through the very core of his heart.

(iv)  W.B. Yeats.

**SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS**

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

**Q1. Where does the poet want to go and why?**

**Ans:-**The poet wants to go to the solitary and silent Isle of Innisfree in the Lake Lough Gill of his native country, Ireland. He wants to go there because he is fed up with the restless, noisy world of cities and feels strongly nostalgic about the life on the island which, by contrast, will be a life of quietness and pleasure.

**Q2. What kind of a life does the poet want to lead on the Lake Isle? (or)**

**What three things does the poet want to do when he goes back to Innisfree?**

**Ans:-**The poet wants to lead a life of serenity and contentment, away from the bustle and loudness of urban life. He longs for living in a simple cabin made of clay and sticks. A small piece of land with a few bean-rows and some honey fresh from the bee-hive will be enough to satisfy his needs.

**Q3. What kind of music will the poet enjoy on the Lake Isle of Innisfree?**

**Ans:-**On the Isle of Innisfree, the poet will enjoy the loud music of the bees and the mild music of the waves striking against the shore.

**Q4. How does the poet describe the mornings on the lonely island?**

**Ans:-**The poet describes the mornings on the lonely island to be very peaceful and quiet. The atmosphere of the morning is hazy with fog or mist. Out of the hazy heavens, peace comes on the land falling softly and noiselessly.

**Q5. What does the poet imply by “….from the veils of the morning to where the cricket sings.**

**Ans:-**By this expression, the poet implies that the span of time from morning to evening is full of peace on the Lake Isle of Innisfree. Here, quietness reigns supreme. The singing of the cricket adds to the music of nature and can be enjoyed on this island.

**Q6. What is the central idea/theme of the poem ‘The Lake Isle of Innisfree’?**

**Ans.**The poet, W.B. Yeats deeply longs for peace in the natural surroundings. Innisfree is an island on the Lake Isle. The poet had spent a lot of time there as a boy. He seems to be fed up with the hectic and noisy city life. Now he wants to go to Innisfree to live in the lap of nature. He will enjoy the water playing in the lake. The humming of bees and their beehives would please him. The sum and substance are that living in nature provides us with peace and happiness.

**LONG ANSWER QUESTIONS**

**(Answered in about 100 – 150 words each)**

**Q1. How does the poet capture the sights and sounds of the Lake Isle of Innisfree?**

**Ans:-**The poet, W.B. Yeats, had spent many summers during his childhood on the Lake Isle of Innisfree. His memories are so vivid that the sights and sounds seem to have left an indelible impression on his mind. He beautifully portrays the vast, open stretch of land with a very tranquil environment prevailing from morning till evening. The midnight is aglow with the glimmering of the moon and the stars. The noon’s are bright with a purplish light. In the evening, the linnets, fluttering their wings in flight make a very captivating sight.  
The Lake Isle of Innisfree echoes with the alluring, soothing music of the insects, birds and waves. The bees sing loudly and the linnets make the evenings energetic with their music. Moreover, there is soft music of the waves striking gently against the shore day and night. Thus, the sights and sounds described by the poet make the island an enthralling and alluring place.

**Q2. How does the poet contrast city life with life in natural surroundings?**

**Ans:-** Although the poet does not describe the city life in detail, his obsession to go to the beautiful island full of pleasing sights and sounds makes it clear that he wants to leave the noisy life in the city and lead a simple life. The contrast between the crowded cities and the calm, natural surroundings of Innisfree justifies his desire.

The description of green glades and pastures, along with birds and insects singing on Innisfree stand in contrast to the dull looking roadways and pavements that are full of vehicles and people. This contrast hints at the noise pollution and congestion in cities.

Further, the picture of the island surrounded by the calm water of the lake and its gentle waves present a beautiful sight. In contrast, people in cities are lost in a race of accumulating material possessions. The fewer needs of people living close to nature indicate greater contentment as compared to the city dwellers’ never-ending chase of wealth and material possessions. The poet’s urge to return to natural surroundings for a peaceful life hints at the problems and restlessness of people in cities. Thus, the poet contrasts every aspect of city life with the life in natural surroundings that are full of pleasure, contentment and peace.