
Poem No. (4) :

Woman Work = (گھریلو عورت کا کام)

By : **Maya Angelou**

Stanza (1) :

Lines : (1 - 4) :

I've got the children to tend
The clothes to mend
The floor to mop
The food to shop.

Vocabulary :

tend = (look after, take care of) (دیکھ بھال کرنا); mend = (repair) (مرمت کرنا); mop = (wipe; clean with mop) (جھاڑو سے صاف کرنا); food (خوراک); shop = (buy, purchase) (خریداری کرنا).

ANSWER :**(i) Reference And Context :**

These lines have been taken from the poem, "Woman Work", by Maya Angelou.

In this poem, the poetess (شاعرہ) has expressed (اظہار کرنا) her feelings (احساسات) of disgust (بیزاری) and boredom (بوریٹ) as a domestic (گھریلو) woman. These feelings of her are the result of (بے کیف) her dull (کا نتیجہ) and cheerless (بے رونق) life of doing her usual (حسب معمول) domestic chores (گھریلو کام کاج) daily. She has, however, a strong desire (زبردست خواہش) to participate in (میں شرکت کرنا) nature found around her.

(ii) Explanation :

In these lines, the poetess (شاعرہ), as a domestic woman (گھریلو عورت), talks about her domestic chores (گھریلو کاموں), which she has to do daily. She has to look after (دیکھ بھال کرنا) her children. She has to repair (مرمت کرنا) their clothes. She has to wipe (صاف کرنا) the floor of her house with a mop (جھاڑو). She has to go to various (مختلف) shops to buy eatables (خوردنی اشیاء) and other things of daily use.

Stanza No.(2) :**Lines : (5 - 8) :****Then chicken to fry****The baby to dry****I got company to feed****The garden to weed.****Vocabulary :**

chicken (چوزں مرغیوں); fry = (roast) (بھوننا); dry (خشک کرنا); company = (guests) (مہمانوں); feed = (provide meal after cooking) (پکا کر کھانا کھلانا); weed (root out the weeds) (جڑی بوٹیاں).

ANSWER :**(i) Reference And Context :**

---Same as under lines : (1 - 4) of Stanza (1)--

(ii) Explanation :

In these lines, the poetess describes (بیان کرنا) that she has to, being a domestic woman, do numerous (بیشمار) domestic chores (گھریلو کام کاج) daily. She has to roast (بھوننا) chicken for meal. She has to bathe (نسلانا) her baby and to dry (خشک کرنا) her and dress (لباس پہنانا) her. She has also to take

care of (کا دھیان رکھنا) her garden (باغ) and root out (جڑے اُکھاڑنا) weeds (جڑی بوٹیوں) out of it daily to maintain (تعمیر و مرمت کے طور پر) it properly (تعمیر و مرمت کے طور پر).

ANSWER :

(i) **Reference And Context :**

---Same as under Lines : (1 - 4) of Stanza (1)---

(ii) **Explanation :**

In these lines; the poetess describes (بیان کرتا) that she has to, being a domestic woman, do numerous (بسیار) domestic chores (گھریلو کام کا سب) daily. She has to roast chickens for meal, she has to bathe (نہلاتا) her baby, dry (خشک کرتا) and dress (لباس پہناتا) her. She has certain (کچھ) guests to serve with meal and drinks (شربات). She has also to take care (خیال رکھنا) of her garden (باغ). She has to root out (جڑے اُکھاڑنا) the weeds (جڑی بوٹیوں) from it daily.

Stanza No. (2) :

Lines : (9 - 12) :

I've got the shirts to press
The tots to dress
The cane to be cut
I got to clean up this hut.

Vocabulary :

to press = (to iron) (استری کرتا); the tots = (the little children) (چھوٹے بچے); to dress = (لباس پہناتا); the cane = (گنا ہند); to cut (کاٹنا); to clean up (مکمل صفائی کرتا); hut = (cottage) (گھونپڑی).

ANSWER :

(i) **Reference And Context :**

---Same as under Lines : (1 - 4) of Stanza (1)---

(ii) **Explanation :**

In these lines, the poetess narrates (بیان کرتا) that she has to, as a domestic woman, iron (استری کرتا) the clothes of her family members. She has to dress (لباس پہناتا) her small children. She has also to cut the cane and wipe (مکمل صفائی کرتا) her cottage (گھونپڑی) completely.

Stanza (3) {Lines : 13 - 16} : (Most Imp.)

Shine on me, sunshine
Rain on me, rain .
Fall softly, dewdrops
And cool my brow again.

---(P.U.1997/S, Group--II)

Vocabulary :

shine (روشن ہونا چمکتا); sunshine (سورج کی روشنی دھوپ); rain (V) (بارش ہونا); the rain (N) (بارش); fall = (کرتا پڑتا); softly = (delicately);

(شمس کے چمکنا کرنا) cool (V); dewdrops (نرم طور پر); brow = (پیشانی) = (forehead).

ANSWER :**Reference And Context :**

---Same as under Lines : (1 - 4) of Stanza (1)---

Explanation :

In these verses, the poetess, as a domestic woman, asks the sunshine to shine on her. She asks the rain to fall on her. She asks the dewdrops (نرم طور پر) to fall on her forehead (پیشانی) softly, so as to give peace and calm (امن و سکون) to her body and mind.

In fact, she wants to say that the elements of Nature (sunshine, rain and dewdrops) will assist (مدد کرنا) her to realize (محسوس کرنا) and understand (مجھنا) the purpose (مقصد) of life, and give her strength (طاقت) and energy (توانائی) to bear (برداشت کرنا) the hardships (مصائب) of life.

Stanza (4) {Lines : 17 - 20} : {Most Imp.}

Storm , blow me from here

With your fiercest wind

Let me float across the sky

Till I can rest again.

Vocabulary :

storm (طوفان); to blow me = (to lift up me with you in the open space); fiercest wind = (the most violent wind) (شدید ترین آندھی); to float across = (to swim/move easily here and there); till I rest again = (till I can feel peace and calm again).

ANSWER :**Reference & Context :**

---Same as under lines : (1 - 4) of Stanza (1)---

Explanation :

In these verses, the poetess expresses (اظہار کرتا) her strong desire (زبردست خواہش), as a domestic woman, to enjoy the various elements (عناصر) of nature (فطرت). She evokes (التجاء کرنا) the violent storm (شدید طوفان) to lift her up (زبردست آندھی) from her house with its strongest wind (اوپر اٹھانا). She also asks the storm to allow her, having lifted up, to float across (تھک جانا) the sky till such time she is tired (ضرورت) and is in need (ضرورت) of rest (peace of body and mind) again. Here she has personified (انسانی اوصاف سے نوازنا) the storm as an animate thing (جاندار چیز).

Stanza (5) {Lines : 21-24 } : (Most Imp.)

Fall gently, snow flakes
Cover me with white
Cold icy kisses and
Let me rest tonight.

Vocabulary :

fall = (گرتا); gently = (نرم طور پر); snow flakes =
 (آسمانی برف کے چھوٹے چھوٹے ٹکڑے); cover = (ڈھانپنا); white (سفید); cold
 (ٹھنڈے); icy kisses = (قدرتی برف کے بوسوں); let (اجازت دینا); rest
 (آج کی رات); tonight (آج کی رات).

A N S W E R :**(i) Reference And Context :**

---Same as under lines (1 - 4) of Stanza (1)---

(ii) Explanation :

In these verses, the poetess evokes (منت سماجت کرنا) the small pieces of snow to fall on her gently and softly. She also implores (التجاء کرنا) them to cover her with their white and cold icy-kisses as a lover does with his beloved. She also requests them that, after this, they should allow her to take rest for tonight. Thus, she has here personified the snow flakes as animate things; hence as her lover.

Stanza (6) {Lines : 25 - 28 } : {Most Imp.}

Sun, rain, curving sky
Mountain, oceans, leaf and stone
Star shine, moon glow
You're all that I can call my own.

Vocabulary : = (P.U.2004/A, Group--I)

sun (سورج); rain (بارش); curving sky (جھکے ہوئے آسمان); mountain
 (پہاڑ); oceans (سمندروں); leaf (پتہ); stone (پتھر); star
 shine (ستارے کی روشنی); moon glow (چاند تیز روشنی); my own (اپنے).

A N S W E R :**Reference & Context :**

---Same as under lines : (1 - 4) of Stanza (1)---

Explanation :

In these verses, the poetess addresses (سے مخاطب ہوتا) the sun, the curving sky, mountains, oceans, leaves of the trees, stones, star-shine and bright moon-light. She tells them that they are all her real companions (اصل ساتھی) and friends. She is very ambitious (خواہشمند) to have very close relationship (قریبی تعلق) with the various elements (عناصر) of nature (فطرت). Thus she wants to give a touch (رنگ) of joy and idealization (تصویریت) to her ordinary and dull (بے کیف) life.