

Subject: English

Class: XII

Lesson: Asleep in the Valley

Date: 01.05.2020

1. Sneha Guchait, Gopalnagar Uchha Vidyalaya, Hooghly

Q "... they fill the hollow full of light."

What is the hollow referred to here? How does the hollow look? Who is lying in the hollow? How is he lying there?

Ans: The hollow refers to the valley.

The hollow is green, bright and warm under the rays from the sun.

The dead soldier is lying in the hollow.

The mouth of the dead soldier is open. His head rests on a bunch of ferns and his feet is covered with flowers.

2. Nupur Kar, Manindra Nath High School, Coochbehar

Q. What picture of war do you get in the poem 'Asleep in the Valley'?

Ans: A young soldier sleeps on the warm, green bed of a valley. His mouth is open and there is a smile on his lips. At first sight, it appears he is deep in sleep. Even the scorching sunrays and the humming insects cannot disturb him. However, on observing him closely, it can be seen that there are two red holes on the soldier's side. Evidently, he had been shot during a war, and hence the soldier's sleep is the eternal sleep of death.

Through the poem, the poet tries to convey the message that a war does not bring peace and prosperity. It only causes tragedy and loss of lives.

3. Kaninika Sil, Ashokenagar Banipith Girls' High School (HS), North 24 Parganas

Q. The word "sun" is used three times in the poem. Explain the significance of it.

Ans: The "sun" is a preserver and nourisher of life. The sun rays have made the valley green, warm and bright. However, the sun cannot bright the innocent, dead soldier back to life. The three-fold repetition of the word "sun" signifies, ironically, the terrible destruction caused by war. The destruction is irredeemable, and even the powerful "sun" can do nothing to reverse the devastation of life.