**VAGABOND**

**Understanding the Text**

1. **Choose the most appropriate option:**
2. **What kind of a life does the speaker want?**  
   **a. a free life**  
   b. a life filled with the love of friends  
   c. a life which the heavens will enjoy
3. **Where would the speaker like to sleep?**  
   a. at home  
   **b. in the open**  
   c. in a bunk bed
4. **What are the speaker’s thoughts regarding death?**  
   a. he awaits it eagerly  
   b. he hopes it is far away  
   **c. he does not care when he dies**
5. **What is the only thing that the speaker wants?**  
   a. wealth  
   b. family and friends  
   **c. freedom**
6. **Answer these questions:**
7. **How does the speaker describe his idea of the ideal life in the first stanza?**

**Ans**: The speaker believes the ideal life is one which can be spent out in the open with the sky above him and the water washing against the banks of the river, sea or ocean. He wants to have an open road ahead of him so that he can keep travelling.

1. **How can we say that the speaker wants to avoid all human connections?**

**Ans**: The speaker says he does not seek wealth, hope or love, nor does he want a friend. He is happy living alone, always on the move.

1. **Which figure of speech is used in the phrase ‘the jolly sky’?**

**Ans**: The figure of speech is personification.

1. **How does the speaker plan to deal with the autumn and winter of his life?**

**Ans**: He plans to continue his life as a vagabond even in the autumn and winter of his life.

1. **What is the affect of the repetition of the lines the heaven above/And the road below me?**

**Ans**: The repetition helps to bring forth the intense feelings of the speaker and his strong desire to lead a carefree life, unfettered by responsibilities. He only wants to roam all over the earth with the road ahead of him and the sky above him.

1. **Answer these questions with reference to the context:**
2. ***Bed in the bush with stars to see,  
   Bread I dip in the river—  
   There’s the life for a man like me,  
   There’s the life for ever.***  
   **a. Who is the speaker in these lines?  
   b. Why does the speaker want the bush and the water in the river for?  
   c. What does this tell you about the speaker?**

**Ans**:

**a.** The vagabond is the speaker in these lines.  
**b.** He wants the bush to be his bed and the water in the river to dip his bread in.  
**c.** The speaker does not require any material things. He is happy living in nature, out in the open.

1. ***Give the face of the earth around  
   And the road before me***  
   **a. Who wants the face of the earth?  
   b. Which figure of speech is used in this line?  
   c. Why does the speaker want the road before him and the earth around him?**

**Ans**:

**a.** The vagabond wants the face of the earth.  
**b.** Once again personification is used. The earth has been given the quality of a human being—a face.  
**c.** He wants the road ahead of him so that he can keep going forward on his journey and he wants the earth around him so that he can be out in the open with unlimited possibilities of travel and freedom.

1. ***Or let autumn fall on me  
   Where afield I linger,  
   Silencing the bird on tree,***  
   **a. What does autumn stand for, in these lines?  
   b. Where will the speaker be during the autumn of his life?  
   c. Why will autumn silence the bird on the tree?**

**Ans**:

**a.** Autumn stands for the later years in life.  
**b.** He will continue living a life of freedom in the open. He will roam the earth and sleep under the sky that is full of stars.  
**c.** During the autumn months birds begin to migrate to warmer climates. This is why the speaker says the birds on the trees will be silenced.

1. **Think and answer:**
2. **What kind of a person is the speaker?**

**Ans**: The speaker is a nature-lover and a free soul. He loves freedom and has no material desires.

1. **How can we say that the speaker is not afraid of death?**

**Ans**: The speaker says, ‘let the blow fall soon or late’. He will not change his lifestyle for fear of death, and wants to continue his journey, and does not care when or where he dies.

1. **Do you agree that the speaker loves nature?**

**Ans**: Yes, the speaker is a nature-lover. He wants to be out in the open. He wants to sleep in the bushes and swim in river and keep walking all his life.