**SINGING ACROSS BORDERS**

**Summary**

The poem is written in an inspiring tone that defies and questions the right of politicians, referred to as ‘You/Your’, to choose a way of life for the ordinary masses. The poet advocates the use of non-violence, love, compassion and music to promote peace and harmony in the world. The poet says that ‘We’, the ordinary people refuse to believe that the others are our enemies. We refuse to accept the nuances that You have given to history. The way in which We will do this is by carrying Our defiance like a shroud that You cannot penetrate. Our defiance will keep Your venomous attacks away from Us. Our compassion will be Our sword which will fight Your deviousness. The poet says that We will not accept that hating anyone is the right thing to do or that peace is weak and that wars cannot be stopped. The poet proposes using music and peace marches to break down divisions and melt disparities. The poet determines that the ordinary people of the world will fly the flag of peace and promote harmony in the world.

**Understanding the Text**

1. **Fill in blanks to summarise the poem. Use words from the box:**

**peace compassion harmony enemies politics past defiance**

The poet says that the people of the world refuse to be led by those who say that others are our **enemies**. She says we will reject their **politics** and never accept the way in which they read the events of the **past**. We will fight them with our **defiance** and **compassion**. We will continue to work for **peace** and **harmony** in the world.

1. **Answer these questions:**
2. **The line ‘We refuse to use your words’ means  
   a. we refuse to use your language.  
   b. we refuse to accept your ideology.**

**Ans**: **b.** we refuse to accept your ideology.

1. **Who does ‘we’ refer to?**

**Ans**: Here, ‘we’ refers to the people of the world.

1. **How can anger be worn like shroud?**

**Ans**: It can envelop us completely and act as a shield.

1. **What will the defiance with which they face the world do for them?**

**Ans**: It will help them to reject the politics of those who wish to divide the world.

1. **Which other weapons will they use to keep themselves from giving in to ‘them’?**

**Ans**: They will use the weapons of compassion, music, and the flag of peace to keep themselves from giving in to them.

1. **What is the final aim of the poet?**

**Ans**: The final aim of the poet is to ensure that the world should live in peace and harmony.

1. **Answer these questions with reference to the context:**
2. ***We refuse to believe that hate is justified, that peace is weak, that conflict is endless***  
   **a. Who refuses to believe this?  
   b. Why do they refuse to believe it?**

**Ans**:

**a.** The poet says that the people of the world refuse to believe this.  
**b.** They wish to foster peace and harmony in the world, and believe that hatred is fed by vested interests of politics and governments.

1. ***We will march across the divisions***  
   **a. Why do they need to march across the divisions?  
   b. How will doing this help them?**

**Ans**:

**a.** They need to march across the divisions in unity so as to break them down.  
**b.** They will become one and be united with those who live across the borders.

1. **Think and answer:**
2. **What kinds of weapons does the poet advocate the use of?**

**Ans**: The poet advocates the use of peace, harmony and music—the methods of non-violence.

1. **Are these weapons better than bombs, grenades and bullets? Why?**

**Ans**: Yes, they are better weapons because they cannot harm others.