

# Lesson 1: The Laburnum

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I. Answer the following questions with reference to context:

1. But like the cawing crows, you'd say, there's nothing to this tree -

Its height is unremarkable, its leaves so ordinary.

a) What makes the 'cawing crow' and the laburnum tree similar?

Ans: Both the cawing crow and laburnum are unremarkable and ordinary.

b) List two things that make the tree 'nothing'.

Ans: The two things that make the tree 'nothing' are:

⇒ the tree's height is unremarkable.

⇒ the leaves are ordinary.

c) What makes the tree superb? Think and Write.

The tree becomes superb in the summer when it traps golden light, and its blossoms dazzle with a topaz light.

2. Flowers of sunshine cloak the tree  
and dazzle every eye  
and every puff a wayward breeze  
drops gold on passers-by

(a) Why does the poet say 'flowers of sunshine'?

Ans: The poet uses the phrase 'flowers of sunshine' to describe the blossoms of the laburnum tree, suggesting that they radiate a bright and golden quality like a sunshine.

(b) What effect do the flowers of sunshine have on every eye?

Ans: The flowers of the sunshine dazzle every eye, i.e. they create a visually stunning and attractive display.

(c) What does the 'Wayward breeze' do?

Ans: The wayward breeze drops gold on passers-by, indicating that it carries and disperses the golden blossoms from the tree on the passers-by.

3. Even the beggar down the street  
smiles when he sees this tree.

And for some moments he can feel  
a joy that comes for free.

(a) What does 'this tree' refer to in the above stanza?

Ans: 'This tree' refers to the laburnum tree.

(b) Why is the joy said to be free?

Ans: The joy is said to be free because it is derived  
from the simple and natural beauty of the laburnum  
tree. The beggar does not need to pay money to  
experience it.

(c) What makes the beggar smile?

Ans: The sight of the laburnum tree in full bloom  
makes the beggar smile.



II. Answer the following questions.

1) What is the difference between the laburnum and the cawing crows?

Ans: The laburnum tree is different from the cawing crows because it does not draw attention to itself. It exists quietly and does not show off.

2) What happens when the poet says 'But comes the summer...?'

Ans: When the poet says, 'But when comes the summer ....', it marks a change in the description of laburnum tree. In summer, the tree becomes remarkable as it traps a golden light within itself. The flowers of the tree blossom, and the tree becomes a source of beauty.

3) What brings happiness to the beggar?

Ans: The sight of the laburnum tree in full bloom brings happiness to the beggar. For some moments, he can feel a joy that comes for free.

III. Answer in Detail

1) Why does the laburnum tree stand unaffected under the 'thunderous grey sky'?

Ans: The laburnum tree stands unaffected under the 'thunder grey sky' because despite the gloom cast by the stormy weather, the tree remains untouched. It continues to shine with a topaz light, suggesting that its beauty is not diminished by the external conditions.