



## CLASS NOTES-ANSWERS

### Working with the poem.

1. Who is the speaker in the poem?

**Answer:** A poor man who is looking for work as a daily wager is the speaker in the poem.

2. "The king, sword in hand" suggests

i) wealth

ii) power

iii) more power than wealth

Mark the appropriate item in the context of stanza 1.

**Answer:**(ii) power

3. The old man offered the speaker a lot of money. Why did he turn down the offer?

**Answer:** Although the old man offered a lot of money to the speaker, he turned it down because he understood that money cannot buy him what he actually wants. It was only then that he realised that what he actually was seeking is happiness. While the old man was counting the gold coins, the speaker came to realise that when the money would be over and the old man's work would be done, he would again be left with no work. Also, he would be bound by this bargain. He did not feel satisfied and hence turned it down.



---

4. Find in the poem, lines that match the following. Read both one after another.

i. I have nothing to give you except goodwill and cheer.

**Answer:** "I hire you with nothing"

ii. Her happiness was no more than sorrow in disguise.

**Answer:** "Her smile paled and melted into tears".

iii. The king's might was not worth much.

**Answer:** "But his power counted for naught"

5. How did the speaker feel after talking to the child on the beach?

**Answer:** The speaker met a child near the beach. The child was playing with sea shells. The speaker felt very happy after having a conversation with the child. He felt happy, independent and free from all desires.

