

PRACTICE SHEET ANSWER SCHEME

Subject: English	Topic: On Killing a Tree		
Grade: IX	Div.: _____	Roll No: _____	Date: _____

Q 1 Read the given extracts and answer the following questions.

(a) *So hack and chop*

But this alone won't do it.

i. What is the poet talking about?

The poet says that hacking and chopping the bark will not kill a tree.

ii. What will not happen with only hacking and chopping?

Only with hacking and chopping, one will not be able to kill a tree.

iii. How will it heal itself?

Curled green twigs will rise from close to the ground which in time will grow and expand to former size.

iv. Give the synonym of 'hack'.

cut

(b) *Browning, hardening*

Twisting, withering

And then it is done.

i. What undergoes browning, hardening, twisting and withering'?

The roots of the tree that have been pulled out of the earth undergo the above processes.

ii. What causes the above processes?

The exposure of the roots to the sun and air causes them to burn and choke and ultimately die.

iii. 'And then it is done' - Explain.

Once the roots of the tree turn brown, harden, twist and wither, the tree ultimately dies.

iv. Find the synonym of drying up or wilting.

withering

Q 2 Answer each of the following sentences in 30-40 words.

(a) Why has the hide of the tree been called leprous?

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The bark of the tree is uneven in texture and colour. Leprosy also robs the skin of the leper of its colour and evenness. Hence, the poet has drawn a metaphorical comparison between the discoloured bark of a tree and the diseased skin.

- (b) What is meant by 'years of sunlight, air and water'?

Years of sunlight, air and water means that the tree takes years together to grow up fully. In this course of time it draws energy from sunlight, air and water.

- (c) What will rise from 'close to the ground' after the bark is hacked and chopped? Why?

Curled green twigs and miniature boughs will rise from the stump of the tree that is close to the ground. They will rise because the tree rejuvenates and revives itself as long as its root is intact.

- (d) In the phrase 'consuming the earth', who consumes the earth and how?

It is the tree that consumes the earth by drawing its nourishment from the soil through its root. The food required by the tree lies deep inside the earth and the root sucks and absorbs nutrients and nourishes the tree.

Q 3 Answer each of the following sentences in 100-150 words.

- (a) What does the root of the tree look like when it is pulled out of the earth-cave?

What happens to it when it is left exposed?

The root of the tree is moist and white when it is pulled out of its hiding, the earth-cave. It is very tender and delicate as it has remained concealed for years together, away from sunlight and air. The root cannot tolerate the light and heat of the sun and the open air. When it is left exposed, it gets scorched and chokes in the sun and the air. Initially, it starts changing its colour and becomes brown. Then it starts losing its tenderness. It becomes hard and its suppleness declines. Gradually, it withers away and becomes gnarled and twisted. Ultimately, life is completely drained out of it and it leads to the death of the whole tree. This is how exposure robs first the root and then the entire tree of its life.

- (b) How does a tree grow up?

A tree takes years together to grow to its full size. After sprouting out from the surface of the earth from a seed it grows gradually. Its root nurtures it by drawing nutrients from deep under the earth. Sunlight, air and water further nourish it. Out of its bark, tender green branches shoot out and leaves grow all over them. After a long span of time the tree stands so strong and sturdy that it can survive even the wounds inflicted with a knife. In fact, chopping and

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hacking are not sufficient to kill it as the wounds get healed. Branches appear again even from the stump and in due course and attain their original size. As long as the root of the tree remains intact under the earth, the tree keeps growing.