NCERT Solutions for Class 11 English Hornbill Poem 2 The Laburnum Top

Question 1.
What do you notice about the beginning and the ending of the poem ?
Answer:
The poem begins with absolute silence on the laburnum tree top. The poem ends with the tree sinking into silence again. In between, the tree comes to life with the> arrival of the goldfinch and the noise made by the young birds.

Question 2.
To what is the bird's movement compared ? What is the basis for the comparison ?
Answer:
The bird's movement is compared to the swift movement of a lizard. The basis for the comparison is their sleekness, smooth and glossy look.

Question 3.
Why is the image of the engine evoked by the poet ?
Answer:
The poet likens the sudden bustle of the youngones to the noise made by a steam engine when it is started up. The bird as if stokes the fire of the furnace and makes her youngones chirp together.

Question 4.
What do you like most about the poem ?
Answer:
The poem is simple, the action is common place. What I like most about the poem is its discription, its imagery. The poet builds up a lovely scene using very few words.

Question 5.
What does the phrase 'her barred face identity mask' mean ?
Answer:
The little goldfinch is a singing bird. It has coloured stripes across its face. The bars look like a mask or covering for the face. But they help to identify or recognise the birds.

Note Down

(i) the sound words
(ii) the movement words
(iii) the dominant colour in the poem.
Answers :
(i) Chirrup, chitterings, tremor of wings, trillings, whistle-chirrup, whispering

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(ii) comes, enters, starts up, flirts out.
(iii) yellow

List the following

1. words which sleek, alert and abrupt.
2. words with the sound ch, as in chart, and tr, as in trembles in the poem.
3. other sounds that occur frequent in the poem

Answer:
1. Sleek
2. goldfinch, branch, chetterings, Lauches, trembles, trillings, tree.

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