NCERT Solutions for Class 11 English chapter 7 Hawk Roosting

Q.1: Comment on the physical features of the hawk highlighted in the poem and their significance.

Ans : Hawk Roosting by Ted Hughes is a dramatic monologue by Hawk. The non-human voice of the poem is supreme and self-assertive. Hawk takes pride in thinking of him as the most clever and intelligent species in the world. Hughes criticizes the much exposement of rusticity and savageness of the hawk by showing its raw temptation and self-validation. Hawk tells in the beginning that it holds the whole world in between “hooked head” and “hooked feet”. During his sleep to he is aware of his surroundings and his prey. God did his work by creating him now he operates himself.

Q.2: How does the poem emphasize the physical prowess of the hawk?

Ans : Hughes’ “Hawk Roosting” portrays the self-authoritative personality of the hawk who is in a crisis still questions the god his own creator. The arrogance of the hawk is exposed in its dogmatic assertion of its ferocity and superiority. It tells of “perfect kills and eats”, signifying its thirst for violent power. It even denies God’s power and tries to establish itself as the only container of power and control. It enjoys the absolute right to kill itself where it pleases, thereby positioning itself as the victorious holder of authority. He mentions the sun, to evoke the idea that even the sun follows it all throughout. It talks of its eyes as a constant presence that “haven’t permitted no change” and which it plans to keep rigid.

Q.3: ‘There is no sophistry in my body’—this statement expresses the brutal frankness of the hawk. Does the poet suggest something through this statement?

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Q.4: ‘Now I hold Creation in my foot’—explain the centrality of this assertion in the poem. What makes the hawk’s assertion of its invincibility so categorical?

Ans : Hawk is portrayed as self authoritative and posses the quality of being a dictator. The hawk represents the fascist ideology. The hawk sits on the top of the tree and observes the world from there. The small view of the world from above gives him a sense of power. It believes that the sun and wind give him the supremity over living things.

Q.5: Why is the poem entitled ‘Hawk Roosting’?

Ans : Ted Hughes’ “Hawk Roosting” narrates the power of the internal power struggle of a hawk through the technique of dramatic monologue. The hawk is shown to be sitting at the vantage point and it is looking down below from where it is roosting. The situation of the hawk is similar

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to the condition of human beings who do not tend to illuminate ideas or boundaries beyond the prescribed boundaries imposed by society. Violent imagery is employed to narrate the plot. Hawk boost the imagery of supremacy and superiority.

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