

Q. Write a critical analysis of the poem "Asleep In The Valley".

Ans:-Arthur Rimbaud's poem "Asleep In The Valley" is a war poem dealing with the fatal consequence of war. But the poet does not reveal much about war. He gives a natural description of a valley where a slow stream flows. He has focused much on the scenic beauty of the valley than destructive consequence of until the very end of the poem. He proceeds with the description of a young soldier who is blissfully sleeping. His body is stretched in the heavy bushes. His feet are among the flowers. These flowers may Symbolically refer to homage to the martyr paid by nature because his devotion has snatched his life away. So he is sleeping forever peacefully. The soldier is a victim of war that has been made clear by the expression 'the two red holes'. It exposes how inhumanly the soldier is victimised in war. These red holes are nothing but 'bullet wounds'.

Q. Give the substance of the poem "Asleep in the Valley".

Ans:-A green valley is sparkling with bright sunlight. A young soldier is sleeping in the valley with his mouth open. A slow stream passes through the valley. Beneath his head there is a pillow made of fern. He looks pale. He is cold. He is lying on the green grass which is warm and full of sunlight. His feet are among the flowers. Nature should keep him warm, otherwise he may catch cold. Nothing will wake him. There are two red spots of blood on the side of his body which depict that the soldier is already dead. This poem depicts the brutality of war.

Q. Look at the word 'asleep'. What do we normally associate with the word? When does the reader recognize that the soldier is asleep in a different since?

Ans:-We use to word 'asleep' to mean on the sleeping condition of a living being.

A green valley is sparkling with bright sunlight. A young soldier is sleeping in the valley with his mouth open. A slow stream passes through the valley. Beneath his head there is a pillow made of fern. He looks pale and cold. He is lying on the green grass which is warm and full of sunlight. His feet are among the flowers. Nature should keep him warm, otherwise he may catch cold. Nothing will wake him. There are two red spots of blood on the side of his body which depicts that the soldier is already dead.

Q. Justify the title of the poem 'Asleep in the Valley'.

Ans:-Asleep in the Valley means sleeping in the valley. A very young soldier is lying on the ground of a valley open mouthed. He is lying with a gentle innocent smile. The poet thinks that the soldier is sleeping peacefully in the sunlight. The poet requests the insects not to disturb his sleep. He requests the nature to keep the soldier warm, otherwise he may catch cold. Suddenly two red spots of the blood are noticed by the side of his body. This depicts that the soldier is already dead. His sleep is eternal and he will never wake again. Through this the poet Rimbaud evokes the futility of war. War only destroys young lives. So the title suggests the tragedy of the young soldier and the futility of war.

Q. How does the picture of the soldier describe the tragedy of war? Explain.

Ans:-Asleep in the Valley is a war poem. The poet Arthur Rimbaud experienced the horror of war. In this poem a soldier is described as very young. He is lying asleep in a peaceful small valley. He is bathed in sunlight. The smiling face of the soldier indicates that he is innocent and pure. The sun is shining on him. Yet neither of these can awake him. At the end, we see the bullet marks on the side of his body. Symbolically Rimbaud tries to describe the tragedy of war. The soldier lies open mouthed. Death is countered by the growth and existence of bushes, flowers and plants. Thus the poem proclaims the futility of war. War only destroys young lives. So the poet's anger about war is clear in the poem.