

# ASSIGNMENTS

Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow.

Q 1. It was roses, roses, all the way,

With myrtle mixed in my path like mad:  
The house roofs seemed to heave and sway,  
The church-spires flamed, such flags they had,  
A year ago in this very day.

The air broke into a mist with bells,  
The old walls rocked with the crowd and cries.  
Had I said, "Good folk, mere noises repels—  
But give me your sun from yonder skies!"  
They had answered, "And afterward, what else?"

- Who is the speaker? What do the first five lines suggest?
- When do the things mentioned in the given extract take place? How is it different at present?
- Explain: "Good folk, mere noise repels— But give me your sun from yonder skies"
- What does, 'They had answered, "But afterward, what else?"' suggest?
- Mention the poetic devices used in this extract.

Q 2. Alack, it was I who leaped at the sun

To give it my loving friends to keep!  
Nought man could do, have I left undone:  
And you see my harvest, what I reap  
This very day, now a year is run

There's nobody on the house-tops now—  
Just a palsied few at the window set;  
For the best of the sight is, all allow,  
At the Shambles' Gate— or, better yet,  
By the very scaffold's foot, I trow.

- What is the significance of the opening line of the extract?
- What does the narrator say he has done and for whom?
- What is the 'harvest' that the narrator has reaped?
- How are things different for the narrator at present, as compared to the previous year?
- What, according to the narrator, is the best sight?

Q 3. I go in the rain, and, more than needs,

A rope cuts both my wrists behind;  
And I think, by the feel, my forehead bleeds,  
For they fling, whoever has a mind,  
Stones at me for my year's misdeeds.