



	ENGLISH The Laburnum Top	
Name: _____	Date: _____	Class: XI

Answer the following questions in 30-40 words:

Q1. How does the laburnum tree appear in September in afternoon shine? Does the arrival of the goldfinch bring about a change in it?

Ans. The laburnum tree is yellow and still in September afternoon sunshine. However, it bursts into activity and life when the goldfinch arrives. There is plenty of sound and movement in its branches.

Q2. Describe the laburnum top.

Ans. The laburnum tree is silent and still. Its leaves are yellowing and seeds have fallen to the ground. It appears yellow in the afternoon light in September.

Q3. Why did the goldfinch enter the thickness of the laburnum tree? Quote the line/ words to support your answer.

Ans. Goldfinch enters to feed her young ones; the line/words which reflect it are 'the engine of her family' and 'she stokes it full'.

Q4. What happened when the goldfinch came to the laburnum tree?

Ans. When the bird arrived, there was suddenly a lot of sound, activity, and chirping. When she went inside to nurse her chicks, the sound of shrill chick cries and fluttering wings made the entire tree seem to shake.

Q5. How is the tree transformed during the bird's visit? Write the line that shows this transformation.

Ans. The tree is silent, still and empty before and after the bird's visit. When the bird arrives, there is the sound of chirping, fluttering of wings and the whole tree comes alive. The line is 'the whole tree trembles and thrills'.

Q6. In the poem 'Laburnum Top', what is the bird's movement compared to?

Ans. The bird's movement has been compared to that of a lizard. Her movement is smooth and clean like that of a lizard's.

Q7. Why is the image of the engine evoked by the poet in 'The Laburnum Top'?

Ans. When the goldfinch enters the dense leaf cover of the laburnum tree to feed her chicks, the poet uses the metaphor of an engine to depict the stirrings, sounds, and energy that can be heard.



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Q8. What do you notice about the beginning and end of the poem 'The Laburnum Top'?

Ans. The tree was silent before the goldfinch came. It became silent again after she left.

Q9. What do you like most about the poem?

Ans. The laburnum tree, which is silent and without leaves, is the subject of the poem. When a goldfinch visits to feed her chicks, it suddenly comes to life. The bird leaves, and the tree is once more silent and bare. The poem's most appealing aspect is the life and energy the bird lends to the tree.

Q10. What values do you learn from goldfinch in the poem?

Ans. The goldfinch has a nest on top of the laburnum tree. While the mother goldfinch leaves the nest at regular intervals in search of food to feed her babies, her young ones remain inside the nest. This shows her concern for her offsprings and emphasizes the importance of a mother's love and care for her children. The poem also emphasises the importance of protection and safety through the goldfinch's quick movements. In order to avoid being seen by any predators, the Goldfinch is aware of her surroundings and moves quickly like a lizard.
