

Discovering Tut: the Saga Continues by A.R. Williams



A.R. Williams

GENERAL INTRODUCTION:

“Discovering Tut the Saga Continues” is regarding the last heir of the great Pharaoh Dynasty, Tutankhamun. When Tut’s mummified body was discovered, he was laid with lots of gold, wealth and everyday items like a bronze razor, games, clothes, cases of food and wine. Carter discovered him after searching for many years. After researching the treasures, he decided to investigate his three nested coffins.

Tutankhamun died in his teenage years after ruling for 9 years. His death gave birth to a mystery. This chapter talks about all the possible mysteries: the curse, where his tomb is lying, his whole life and finally his death.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

A.R. Williams developed a love for reading at a very young age and in the fourth grade, when an assignment to write their own works of fiction was given, it occurred to him that he too could craft tales for others to enjoy.

SUMMARY:

“Discovering Tut the Saga Continues,” gives an insight into the mystery surrounding the life and death of Tutankhamun, the last teenage ruler of the powerful Pharaoh dynasty that had ruled Egypt for centuries.

King Tut was the last ruler of his family’s line, and his funeral brought an end to this powerful dynasty.

Tut’s father or grandfather, Amenhotep III was a powerful pharaoh who ruled for about four decades during the dynasty’s golden age.

His son, Amenhotep IV shocked the country by attacking Amun, a major God, smashing his images and closing all his temples.

He changed his name to Akhenaten and promoted the worship of Aten or the sun disk.

After his death, a mysterious ruler Smenkhkare appeared briefly and exited with hardly a trace.

When Tut took over, he changed his name from Tutankhaten to Tutankhamun and restored the old ways.

However, Tut ruled for nine years and then died mysteriously.

FUNERARY TREASURES:

In 1922, his tomb was discovered by Howard Carter.

Tut was buried with everyday things that he would want in the afterlife.

Board games, bronze razor, linen undergarments, cases of food and wine.

A shroud adorned with garlands of olive leaves, wild celery, lotus petals and cornflowers (Evidence of burial in March-April)

Glittering goods, precious collars, necklaces, bracelets, rings, sandals and now iconic inner coffin and mask-all of pure gold.

The ritual resins had hardened, thereby cementing Tut to the bottom of his solid gold coffin.

Carter finally had to chisel the mummy away.

Intriguing Mystery of death of King Tut through computed tomography (CT SCAN):

In 1968 an anatomy professor X-rayed the mummy and revealed that Tut's breast bone and front ribs were missing.

This fact gives us a clue that Tut. in all its likelihood did not die a natural death.

At 6.00 pm on 5 January 2005 Tut's mummy was scanned under the supervision of Zahi Hawass, Secretary General of Egypt's Supreme Council of Antiquities.

A portable CT machine donated by National geographic society and seimens scanned the mummy head to toe to record the minutest detail.

CURSE OF THE PHAROAH:

The fans of the CT Scan machine got stuck with the sand and stopped working. Then they jokingly said it was the curse of the pharaoh. Later another pair of white plastic fans were arranged which worked well enough.

Less than three hours after he was removed from his coffin, the pharaoh again rested in peace in the tomb.

सारांश:

“डिस्कवरिंग टुट द सागा कंटीन्यूज़”, शक्तिशाली फिरौन वंश के अंतिम किशोर शासक तूतनखामुन के जीवन और मृत्यु के आसपास के रहस्य की एक अंतर्दृष्टि देता है, जिसने सदियों से मित्र पर शासन किया था।

राजा टुट अपने परिवार के अंतिम शासक थे, और उनके अंतिम संस्कार ने इस शक्तिशाली राजवंश का अंत कर दिया।

टुट के पिता या दादा, अमेनहोटेप III एक शक्तिशाली फिरौन थे जिन्होंने राजवंश के स्वर्ण युग के दौरान लगभग चार दशकों तक शासन किया था।

उनके बेटे, अमेनहोटेप IV ने एक प्रमुख भगवान अमुन पर हमला करके, उनकी छवियों को तोड़कर और उनके सभी मंदिरों को बंद करके देश को चौंका दिया।

उन्होंने अपना नाम बदलकर अखेनातेन रख लिया और एटेन या सन डिस्क की पूजा को बढ़ावा दिया।

उनकी मृत्यु के बाद, एक रहस्यमय शासक स्मेनखकारे कुछ समय के लिए प्रकट हुए और मुश्किल से एक निशान के साथ बाहर निकल गए।

जब टुट ने पदभार संभाला, तो उसने अपना नाम तूतनखातेन से बदलकर तूतनखामुन कर लिया और पुराने तरीकों को बहाल कर दिया।

हालांकि, टुट ने नौ साल तक शासन किया और फिर रहस्यमय तरीके से उनकी मृत्यु हो गई।

अंतिम संस्कार के खजाने:

1922 में हॉवर्ड कार्टर ने उनके मकबरे की खोज की थी।

टुट को रोजमर्रा की चीजों के साथ दफनाया गया था जो वह बाद के जीवन में चाहता था।

बोर्ड गेम, कांस्य रेजर, लिनन अंडरगारमेंट्स, भोजन और शराब के मामले।

जैतून के पत्तों, जंगली अजवाइन, कमल की पंखुड़ियों और कॉर्नफ्लावर की माला से सुशोभित कफन (मार्च-अप्रैल में दफन होने का प्रमाण)

चमचमाते सामान, कीमती कॉलर, हार, कंगन, अंगूठियां, सैंडल और अब प्रतिष्ठित आंतरिक ताबूत और मुखौटा-सभी शुद्ध सोने के।

अनुष्ठान रेजिन सख्त हो गए थे, जिससे टट को उसके ठोस सोने के ताबूत के नीचे तक सीमेंट कर दिया गया था।

कार्टर को आखिरकार ममी को दूर भगाना पड़ा।

कंप्यूटेड टोमोग्राफी (सीटी स्कैन) के माध्यम से किंग टट की मौत का दिलचस्प रहस्य:

1968 में एनाटॉमी के एक प्रोफेसर ने ममी का एक्स-रे किया और खुलासा किया कि टट के स्तन की हड्डी और सामने की पसलियां गायब थीं।

यह तथ्य हमें एक सुराग देता है कि टट इसकी सभी संभावना में एक प्राकृतिक मौत नहीं हुई।

5 जनवरी 2005 को शाम 6:00 बजे टट की ममी को मिस्र के सुप्रीम काउंसिल ऑफ एंटीक्विटीज के महासचिव जही हवास की देखरेख में स्कैन किया गया था।

नेशनल ज्योग्राफिक सोसाइटी और सीमेंस द्वारा दान की गई एक पोर्टेबल सीटी मशीन ने सबसे छोटे विवरण को रिकॉर्ड करने के लिए ममी को सिर से पैर तक स्कैन किया।

फिरौन का अभिशाप:

सीटी स्कैन मशीन के पंखे रेत में फंस गए और काम करना बंद कर दिया। तब उन्होंने मजाक में कहा कि यह फिरौन का अभिशाप है। बाद में सफेद प्लास्टिक के पंखों की एक और जोड़ी की व्यवस्था की गई जो काफी अच्छी तरह से काम करती थी।

अपने ताबूत से निकाले जाने के तीन घंटे से भी कम समय के बाद, फिरौन ने फिर से कब्र में शांति से विश्राम किया।

KEY WORDS:

Heir – Inheritor, successor

Laden – loaded

Speculated- form a theory without evidence

Tomb- an enclosure to bury the dead

Forensic Reconstruction – the process of recreating the face of an individual

Pharaoh- a ruler in ancient Egypt

Stirred – move or cause to move slightly

Ghostly – eerie and unnatural; unreal

Resting place- here, the grave

Cemetery- a large burial ground

Veiling – to cover something

Casket- a small ornamental box or chest for holding jewels, letters, or other valued objects.

Probe – to investigate, find out

Lingering – long-lasting

Descended – moved or gathered

Cramped – very small to fit into

Rock-cut – made in a rock by cutting it

Gazed – to look in surprise or in admiration

Murals – a painting or other artwork executed directly on the wall

Gilded – covered with a thin sheet or coating of gold

Striking- prominent

Whisper- to speak in a low voice

Pondering – think about something carefully

Futile – pointless; incapable of producing the result of something

Hastily – fast; swiftly

Ransacked – raid; go through a place to steal or damage something

Antiquity – age, oldness

Resurrection – restoration to life

Afterlife- life after death, based on the belief that the essential part of an individual's identity continues to the next life after the death of the physical body

Shroud – a length of cloth in which a dead person is wrapped

Adorned – decorated

Garlands of willow – a wreath of flowers and leaves

Mummy- a body of a human being or animal that has been ceremonially preserved by removal of the internal organs, treatment with natron and resin, and wrapping in bandages.

Resins – a sticky flammable substance that is insoluble in water

Legitimate – reasonable

Blazing – very hot

Circumvented – find a way around; thieves would have found a way to tackle the guards and remove the gold from the tomb

Inlaid – a decorative pattern on a surface

Amulet – an ornament or small piece of jewellery thought to give protection against evil, danger, or disease.

Apron – a protective garment worn over the front of one's clothes and tied at the back.

Sheaths – a close-fitting cover

Iconic – something or someone who is a symbol or it represents some other thing

Adornments – ornaments

Concealed- hid

Intervening – occur in the time between events

Intriguing – to arouse one's curiosity

Startling – unexpected or surprising

1. #A Mystery of the History

Tutankhamun: The last ruler of the powerful Pharaoh Dynasty in Egypt.

2. Mystery Unveiled

3. 1922

Howard Carter, a British Archaeologist:

Tut was buried with everyday things

A shroud adorned with garlands of olive leaves, wild celery, lotus petals and cornflowers

Glittering goods, precious collars, necklaces, bracelets, rings, sandals and now iconic inner coffin and mask-all of pure gold.

The ritual resins had hardened, thereby cementing Tut to the bottom of his solid gold coffin.

Carter finally had to chisel the mummy away.

4. January 05 2005

#Forensic Reconstruction:

Zahi Hawass, Secretary General of Egypt's Supreme Council of Antiquities:

Tut was taken for CT (Computed Tomography) scan which takes hundreds of X-Rays and creates a three-dimensional image.

Scanned the mummy head to toe to record the minutest detail.

After three-hours, his body was taken back to his tomb where his body is resting in peace.

5. Conclusion:

Discovering tut: the saga continues, tells us that Tutankhamun, also known as tut, was a brave ruler of the great Pharaoh Dynasty. He died a mysterious death and is resting in peace in his tomb now.

MCQ:

Q1. How did Tut die?

- (i) It is a mystery
- (ii) Due to heart attack
- (iii) Due to Cancer
- (iv) During a war

(i) It is a mystery

Q2. What is the Cemetery of Tut called?

- (i) Valley of the Kings
- (ii) Tut's Resting Place
- (iii) Resting Peace
- (iv) Valley of Flowers

(i) Valley of the Kings

Q3. When was Tut's body taken for CT scan after being found?

- (i) After 1 year
- (ii) After 80 years
- (iii) After 50 years
- (iv) After 30 years

(ii) After 80 years

Q4. Tut was laid to rest, laden with

- (i) platinum (ii) aluminium
- (iii) gold (iv) silver

(iii) gold

Q5. Who said "The mummy is in very bad condition because of what Carter did in the 1920s"?

- (i) Carter
- (ii) Zahi Hawass
- (iii) an anatomy professor
- (iv) A Egypt Historian

(ii) Zahi Hawass

Q6. Who discovered Tut's tomb and when?

- (i) Adam Cooper in 1901
- (ii) Howard Carter in 1922
- (iii) Howard Carter in 1930
- (iv) Sam Shaw in 1890

(ii) Howard Carter in 1922

Q7. Who is Osiris?

- (i) god of nature
- (ii) god of afterlife
- (iii) god of seasons
- (iv) god of universe

(ii) god of afterlife

Q8. When did Tut die?

- (i) 22000 years ago
- (ii) more than 33000 years ago
- (iii) 10000 years ago
- (iv) 16000 years ago

(ii) more than 33000 years ago

Q9. Who was Tutankhamun?

- (i) A Geologist
- (ii) A Scientist
- (iii) An Egyptian king
- (iv) A historian

(iii) An Egyptian king

Q10. When was Tut's body taken back to his tomb after CT scan?

- (i) After a day
- (ii) After 3 hours
- (iii) After 12 hours
- (iv) After 5 hours

(ii) After 3 hours

Q11. How has archeology changed through the decades ?

- (i) focuses more on treasure
- (ii) focusses more on physical findings
- (iii) focusses on time factors more
- (iv) focusing less on treasure and more on the fascinating details of life and mysteries of death

(iv) focusing less on treasure and more on the fascinating details of life and mysteries of death

Q12. How did the workmen lift the body for the scan?

- (i) through the stairs
- (ii) on a hydraulic trailer
- (iii) through sliding
- (iv) through lift

(ii) on a hydraulic trailer

Q13. Why did the procedure stop in between?

- (i) As spare fan stopped working
- (ii) as the light went off
- (iii) As the lift broken
- (iv) none of the above

(i) As spare fan stopped working

Q14. For how many years did Amenhotep III rule Egypt?

- (i) 5 years (ii) 20 years
- (iii) 10 years (iv) 40 years

(iv) 40 years

Q15. When was the mummy examined in X-Ray by the anatomy professor?

- (i) In 1945 (ii) In 1986
- (iii) In 1968 (iv) Never

(iii) In 1968

Q16. What does CT scan stand for?

- (i) Computed Telegraphy
- (ii) Computed Tomography Scan

(iii) Car Topology

(iv) Computer Technology

(ii) Computed Tomography Scan

Q17. What name did Amenhotep IV change to?

(i) Amarna

(ii) Atul

(iii) Akhenaten

(iv) Amenhotep III

(iii) Akhenaten

Q18. How did Carter cut the body of Tut?

(i) First head and then every limb

(ii) first leg and then head

(iii) first legs, head and then limbs

(iv) limb, hand only

(i) First head and then every limb

Q19. What facts were revealed when the mummy was X-Rayed in 1968?

(i) his several possessions were missing

(ii) his hip bone was missing

(iii) his breast bone and front ribs were missing

(iv) his feet bone was missing

(iii) his breast bone and front ribs were missing

Q20. What was found with Tutankhamun's body?

(i) Gold

(ii) Egyptian Gold Coin

(iii) Nothing as such

(iv) gold, wealth, bronze razor, games, clothes, cases of food and wine

(iv) gold, wealth, bronze razor, games, clothes, cases of food and wine

Q21. For how many years did Tutankhamun rule Egypt?

(i) Nine (ii) Eleven

(iii) Two (iv) Five

(i) Nine

Q22. How did Carter remove the resins?

(i) with the help of chisel and hammer

(ii) with the help of chemicals

(iii) with the help of machinery

(iv) with the help of man power

(i) with the help of chisel and hammer

Q23. What was in the first coffin?

- (i) garlands of olives, lotus petals, and cornflowers
- (ii) flowers and coins
- (iii) gold, wealth, bronze razor, games, clothes, cases of food and wine
- (iv) It was empty

(i) garlands of olives, lotus petals, and cornflowers

Q24. What name did Amenhotep IV change to?

- (i) Amarna
- (ii) Atul
- (iii) Akhenaten
- (iv) Amenhotep III

(iii) Akhenaten

Q25. When was Tut's body taken for CT Scan in the 21st century?

- (i) January 05 2005
- (ii) January 10, 2007
- (iii) June 09, 2001
- (iv) February 12, 2009

(i) January 05 2005

Q26. Why did the procedure stop in between?

- (i) As spare fan stopped working
- (ii) as the light went off

(iii) As the lift broken

(iv) none of the above

(i) As spare fan stopped working

Q27. How has archeology changed through the decades ?

- (i) focuses more on treasure
- (ii) focusses more on physical findings
- (iii) focusses on time factors more
- (iv) focusing less on treasure and more on the fascinating details of life and mysteries of death

(iv) focusing less on treasure and more on the fascinating details of life and mysteries of death

CONTEXTUAL EXPRESSIONS:

1. Notice these expressions in the text. Infer their meaning from the context.

Forensic reconstruction

Ans. Forensic reconstruction refers to the process of scanning a mummy or any object of archaeological importance and creating a 3-dimensional model of it. King Tut's body was carefully taken out of its resting place in the tomb and scanned to dig deeper into the secrets of the death of this young king. Modern science and technology are used nowadays to get a better idea of the past.

Scudded across

Ans. Scudded across refers to a quick motion or movement of something. The text describes the movement of the dark-bellied clouds across the desert sky when King Tut was taken away from his resting place in the Valley of Kings.

Casket grey

Ans. Casket grey refers to the dark-colored clouds, compared with a coffin. When King Tut was taken out from the cemetery, it appeared as if the dark-bellied clouds had hidden the stars like jewels in a casket.

Resurrection

Ans. Resurrection refers to coming back to life after death. King Tut was buried with a lot of wealth. The sunning artifacts in gold caused a sensation at the time of its discovery and guaranteed a resurrection due to their eternal brilliance.

Funerary treasures

Ans. Funerary treasures refer to the abundant wealth that King Tut was buried with. It is one of the richest royal collections ever found. There are stunning artifacts along with daily needs goods such as board games, razors, linen undergarments, wine, etc. The wealth buried with King Tut was enormous and it gave the illusion of treasure being discovered.

Circumvented

Ans. Circumvented means to find an alternative or way to overcome a problem. In the text, it meant that the

thieves would find a way to trick the guards and rip apart the mummy to steal away the wealth King Tut was buried with. Carter eventually had to separate the king from his wealth piece by piece and arranged him in a sandbox to conceal the damage and proceed for the scan.

Computed tomography

Ans. Computed tomography is an imaging test used to create internal and detailed images of internal org**Ans.** Hundreds of X-rays in cross-section are put together and give a three-dimensional virtual image of the body scanned. CT scan was used to scan the body of King Tut to know more about his history and death.

Eerie detail

Ans. Eerie detail means strange, frightening, and uncanny details. After the mummy was scanned, head to toe, 1,700 digital X-rays of Tut were created. When the images of King Tut's head scan were placed together, the resulting image had eerie details that caused a shiver down the spine to the viewers.

SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS:

1. Give reasons for the following:

- (i) King Tut's body has been subjected to repeated scrutiny.

Ans. Since the time King Tut's body was first discovered in 1922, it has been subjected to repeated scrutiny. This is due

to the fact that King Tut died at a very young age. He died as a “boyish pharaoh” leaving behind numerous mysteries associated with his death.

Various investigations, from discovering his remains to excavating his body and studying it under the CT scan, have been done just to find out the medical mysteries of his death.

- (ii) Howard Carter’s investigation was resented.

Ans. Howard Carter, a British archaeologist, was the first archaeologist to discover King Tut’s tomb in the year 1922. His was a great discovery but during the investigation process, he damaged the mummy to a great extent. As the body was found cemented to its gold coffin, it was impossible to move it. Finally, to separate the mummy from its adornments, Carter decided to remove its head and break nearly every major joint. Due to this his investigation was resented.

- (iii) Carter had to chisel away the solidified resins to raise the king’s remains.

Ans. Due to the hardened resins, the King’s body was found cemented to the solid gold-bottom of the coffin such that “no amount of legitimate force could move them”. The mummy had to be separated as the thieves would escape the eyes of guards and rip the mummy apart to steal away the gold. He

even tried to loosen the resins by putting the mummy under the blazing sun. However, every effort went in vain. The only way left for him was to “chisel” it “beneath the limbs and trunk”. Thus, Carter decided to remove the mummy’s head and break the major joints to separate it from its coffin.

- (iv) Tut’s body was buried along with gilded treasures.

Ans. King Tut was buried in a coffin made of pure gold “lavished with glittering goods”. The gilded treasures found included precious collars, inland necklaces and bracelets, rings, amulets, a ceremonial apron, sandals, sheaths for his fingers and toes. In those times, the royals believed in the idea of taking their wealth with them. Tut was adorned with all such riches for his journey after life. It also gives the idea of the Egyptian belief in resurrection.

- (v) The boy king changed his name from Tutankhaten to Tutankhamun.

Ans. ‘Tutankhamun’ means the ‘living image of Amun’. Amun was the major god in the ancient Egyptian society whose temples and images were destroyed by a preceding ruler named Akhenaten. He destroyed the ancient religious order of the Egypti**Ans.** Tut’s changing of his name represents his efforts in the restoration of the old ways that were once destroyed.

- 2 (i) List the deeds that led Ray Johnson to describe Akhenaten as “wacky”.

Ans. The deeds that led Ray Johnson to describe Akhenaten as “wacky” and comments that “it must have been a horrific time” are listed below.

Amenhotep IV (later known by the name of Akhenaten) led to one of the aberrant periods in the history of ancient Egypt.

He made many unpleasant changes in the social and political order of the country.

He promoted the worship of the Aten, the sun disk, and changed his name to Akhenaten or ‘the servant of the Aten’.

He moved the religious capital from the old city of Thebes to the new city of Akhetaten.

He destroyed the images and temples of Amun, a major god.

- (ii) What were the results of the CT scan?

Ans. King Tut is one of the first mummies to undergo a CT scan. The CT scan came up with some new clues about the life and death of King Tut. It provided precise data for an accurate forensic reconstruction of King Tut. The CT scan displayed the mummy from head to toe creating 1,700 digital X-ray images in cross section. It showed a grey head, neck vertebrae, a hand, several images of rib cages and a transection of the skull.

- (iii) List the advances in technology that have improved forensic analysis.

Ans. Technology has been making rapid development. The advancements in technology are responsible for improvements in the field of forensic sciences. From the use of X-rays, technology has advanced to the use of advanced Computed Tomography (commonly known as CT scan). In a CT scan, hundreds of X-rays are created in cross-section, like slices. They create a three-dimensional virtual body with intricate structures. This change in forensic analysis has helped in discovering the mysteries behind Egyptian mummies.

- (iv) Explain the statement, “King Tut is one of the first mummies to be scanned — in death, as in life ...”

Ans. The above line indicates that King Tut’s body was the first to be scanned under a computer tomography machine. Just like King Tut might have led his kingdom when alive, he led the experience of being scanned among the mummies.

SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS:

Discuss the following in groups of two pairs, each pair in a group taking opposite points of view.

1. Scientific intervention is necessary to unearth buried mysteries.

Ans. For If you think history has any relevance in our life, we must get at the truth. There are so many mysteries which remain unsolved. For example, we know very little about the Indus Valley Civilisation. The seals remain undeciphered. This needs scientific investigation. Without scientific intervention, their meaning will remain unknown.

Against We need to know the past because history is relevant to our lives. But sometimes we take it too far. King Tut's mummy has been repeatedly investigated, but in spite of spending much money, nothing new has been revealed about why King Tut died so young. We must utilize our resources to help the living rather than just investigating the dead.

2. Advanced technology gives us conclusive evidence of past events.

Ans. Today technology is so advanced that we can reconstruct the past. For example, we know how Pompeii was destroyed. So now we have reconstructed the whole city. We know precisely how the people lived.

It is incorrect that advanced technology gives us conclusive evidence of past events. King Tut's body has been CT-scanned. What can it tell us about how he died? If he was murdered, who murdered him and why? A CT scan might give some idea how he died, but it cannot give conclusive evidence.

3. Traditions, rituals and funerary practices must be respected.

Ans. People who buried their dead with rituals and funerary practices did show reverence for their dead. They wanted them to lie in peace, undisturbed. We must respect their sentiments.

Against Traditions, customs and funerary practices of the past may encourage superstition. They may also hamper the development of society and affect unity. In fact, they could lead to violence and friction between people belonging to different cultures.

4. Knowledge about the past is useful to complete our knowledge of the world we live in.

Ans. For The past acts as a mirror to our mistakes and teaches us many lessons. In fact, the present is the outcome of the past. It helps us understand the progress of the events down the ages. It builds a good foundation for our present and future.

We must live in the present. The past is infinite and should be left as it is. The past should not affect our present life. It should not be searched again and again; it must be considered as a phase which has passed.

Chapter 3.2 The Laburnum Top By Ted Hughes

General Introduction:

The poem revolves around a Laburnum tree and a Goldfinch bird.

The core theme of the poem shows us the repaying relationship between the two. Further, it begins by describing how the Laburnum tree is pretty quiet in the yellow September light.

Laburnum tree: All parts of Common laburnum are extremely poisonous, but the pea-like seeds are particularly attractive to children. If ingested, they can cause nausea and vomiting, and can be lethal in large doses (15 seeds or more).



#Goldfinch(Bird): The European goldfinch or simply the goldfinch is a small bird in the finch family that is native to Europe, North Africa and western and central Asia. It has been introduced to other areas, including Australia, New Zealand and Uruguay.

The breeding male has a red face with black markings around the eyes, and a black-and-white head. The back and flanks are buff or chestnut brown. The black wings have a broad yellow bar. The tail is black and the rump is white.

Males and females are very similar, but females have a slightly smaller red area on the face.



ABOUT THE POET:

Ted Hughes (17 August 1930 – 28 October 1998) was an English poet, translator, and children's writer. Critics frequently rank him as one of the best poets of his generation and one of the twentieth century's greatest writers.

SUMMARY:

The poet starts the poem with the introduction of the Laburnum Tree who is still and silent. Its leaves have turned yellowish and have started to fall off in the month of September. The tree looks like death and is very quiet.

Then the poet says that the tree becomes alive when a Goldfinch bird comes there to feed her young ones in the thickness of the branch. She comes thereby chirping and moves to the other side of the branch. She with a

rapid motion goes deep into the branch to her young ones. Her movement is compared with a lizard. As soon as she enters, her young ones start their movement like a machine and flap their wings.

The tree gets its motion and life when the bird enters and as soon as the bird flies away the tree again becomes lifeless.

सारांश:

कवि कविता की शुरुआत लेबर्नम टॉप ट्री के परिचय के साथ करता है जो अभी भी और चुप है। इसके पत्ते पीले हो गए हैं और सितंबर के महीने में गिरने लगे हैं। पेड़ मौत जैसा दिखता है और बहुत शांत है।

तब कवि कहता है कि वृक्ष तब जीवित हो जाता है जब एक सुनहरी चिड़िया शाखा की मोटाई में अपने बच्चों को खिलाने के लिए वहां आती है। वह चहकती हुई आती है और शाखा के दूसरी ओर चली जाती है। वह तेजी से अपने बच्चों के लिए शाखा में गहराई तक जाती है। उसकी हरकत की तुलना छिपकली से की जाती है। जैसे ही वह प्रवेश करती है, उसके बच्चे मशीन की तरह अपनी गति शुरू कर देते हैं और अपने पंख फड़फड़ाते हैं।

जब पक्षी प्रवेश करता है तो पेड़ को गति और जीवन मिलता है और जैसे ही पक्षी उड़ जाता है, पेड़ फिर से बेजान हो जाता है।

KEY WORDS:

Goldfinch - a small singing bird with yellow feathers on its wings

Twitching - sudden jerk movement

Chirrup - a bird making repeated high pitched sounds

Startlement - feeling or showing sudden shock

Abrupt - rapid

Chitterings- to make a chattering sound

Tremor of wings - involuntary vibration of the wings

Trillings- to produce a chirruping sound

Trembles - to shake

Thrills - a sudden feeling of excitement
Flirts out-lead on to Stokes to add fuel to the engine

Barred - stripy

Eerie- weird and strange

MCQ:

1. Where did the bird vanish after feeding her young ones?
 - (i) to the other branch
 - (ii) to the top of the tree
 - (iii) to her nest
 - (iv) behind the yellow leaves

(iv) behind the yellow leaves
- Q2. Why was Goldfinch's body barely visible?
 - (i) due to her dark coloured yellow body
 - (ii) because she was small
 - (iii) because of the height of the tree

- (iv) because she was brown in colour
- (i) due to her dark coloured yellow body**
- Q3. Why did the Goldfinch bird come towards the tree?
- (i) to feed her younger ones
(ii) to make a nest
(iii) to rest
(iv) None of the above
- (i) to feed her younger ones**
- Q4. How was the tree in the end when the bird flew away?
- (i) It was still alive
(ii) Nothing changed in the looks
(iii) it was death-like again
(iv) None of the above
- (iii) it was death-like again**
- Q5. What happened to the bird at the end of the poem?
- (i) she flew away
(ii) she stayed at the tree
(iii) she went to other tree
(iv) she went to bring some food for her younger ones
- (i) she flew away**
- Q6. When did the death-like tree become alive?
- (i) in the month of March
(ii) by the arrival monsoon season
- (iii) by the arrival of the Goldfinch bird
- (iv) by the arrival of sparrows
- (iii) by the arrival of the Goldfinch bird**
- Q7. How was the tree standing in the month of September?
- (i) still and death-like
(ii) alive
(iii) green and happy
(iv) still and green
- (i) still and death-like**
- Q8. What is the dominant colour used in the poem?
- (i) Red (ii) Blue
(iii) Yellow (iv) Green
- (iii) Yellow**
- Q9. Where are the young ones of the Goldfinch bird?
- (i) On the thickness of the branch
(ii) On the top of the tree
(iii) on other tree
(iv) they were never there
- (i) On the thickness of the branch**
- Q10. What is described by the word 'sleek' in the poem?
- (i) Lizard (ii) Bird
(iii) Branch (iv) Top of the tree
- (i) Lizard**

Q11. What role does the tree play for the Goldfinch bird?

- (i) As a shelter
- (ii) as a supporter
- (iii) as a means to feed her family
- (iv) as a resting place

(i) As a shelter

Q12. How did the bird arrive at the other branch of the tree?

- (i) with a chirping sound
- (ii) silently
- (iii) never arrived at other branch
- (iv) flew away and then arrived at the branch

(i) with a chirping sound

Q13. When did the death-like tree become alive?

- (i) in the month of March
- (ii) by the arrival monsoon season
- (iii) by the arrival of the Goldfinch bird
- (iv) by the arrival of sparrows

(iii) by the arrival of the Goldfinch bird

Q14. What role does the tree play for the Goldfinch bird?

- (i) As a shelter
- (ii) as a supporter

(iii) as a means to feed her family

(iv) as a resting place

(i) As a shelter

Q15. What happened after she fed her young ones?

- (i) she flew away
- (ii) she flew to the other side of the branch
- (iii) she stayed there
- (iv) she took some rest in the nest

(ii) she flew to the other side of the branch

Q16. Why did the Goldfinch bird come towards the tree?

- (i) to feed her younger ones
- (ii) to make a nest
- (iii) to rest
- (iv) None of the above

(i) to feed her younger ones

Q17. Why was Goldfinch's body barely visible?

- (i) due to her dark coloured yellow body
- (ii) because she was small
- (iii) because of the height of the tree
- (iv) because she was brown in colour

(i) due to her dark coloured yellow body

FIND OUT:

1. What Laburnum is Called in Your Language?

Ans. In my language, which is Hindi, the laburnum is called Amaltaas. It is a tree characterized by medium height, drooping branches, bright yellow flowers, and poisonous seeds.

2. Which Local Bird is Like the Goldfinch?

Ans. The local, i.e., Indian bird resembling goldfinch, is a parakeet named 'Indian Lutino Ringneck'.

THINK IT OUT:

1. What Do You Notice about the Beginning and the Ending of the Poem?

Ans. As the poem begins, I notice that the poet had described the laburnum tree on an afternoon of September bathed in yellow light. Only a few leaves of the tree had turned golden and all the seeds had fallen. The tree was portrayed as calm and silent. At the end of the poem, I notice that when the goldfinch left to the unknown after making its final whistle-chirping sounds the tree remained empty and still.

2. To What is the Bird's Movement Compared? What is the Basis for the Comparison?

Ans. The bird's movement in the poem was compared to that of a lizard. Lizards when moving

on the wall make watchful movements towards their prey and suddenly attach it. According to the poet, the bird's movements were vigilant and unexpected as it arrived at the laburnum tree just like a lizard.

3. Why is the Image of the Engine Evoked by the Poet?

Ans. The little goldfinch ensures that sustenance is provided to its family so the future generation remains alive. Thus the bird's behavior of bringing food to its family has evoked the image of an engine in the poet's mind which similarly provides energy to a machine to keep it running.

4. What Do You Like Most about the Poem?

Ans. I like the simple and beautiful description of the relationship between the tree and bird given in the poem. I like how the poet described a very mundane routine of a bird and how it was pouring life in the silent and still laburnum tree.

5. What Does the Phrase "Her Barred Face Identity Mask" Mean?

Ans. The phrase "her barred face identity mask" has referred to the appearance of the goldfinch bird. The bird's body is yellow while its face has stripes. Though the bird can hide its body in the yellow flowers of the laburnum tree, its striped face can only identify its presence on the tree.