

4. A Roadside Stand is a social satire depicting the two contrasting worlds existing in society. Justify this statement with reference to the poem.

CBSE 2023

Ans. 'A Roadside Stand' by Robert Frost is indeed a social satire that portrays the two contrasting worlds that exist in society. The poem is set in a rural countryside, where there is a roadside stand selling fruits and vegetables.

The poem describes the two types of people who stop at the stand: the wealthy and the poor. The first society described is of the wealthy people who stop at the stand. They are portrayed as superficial, materialistic and self-absorbed. They drive expensive cars, wear fancy clothes and have an air of superiority about them. They come to the stand not to buy fruits and vegetables, but to show off their wealth and social status. They do not care about the quality of the produce or the people who sell it. They are only interested in flaunting their wealth.

The second society, on the other hand, describe the poor people who stop at the stand. They are portrayed as hardworking, honest, and down-to-earth. They walk to the stand, wear simple clothes, and carry baskets to collect the produce. They come to the stand to buy food for their families and are grateful for what they can afford. They have a sense of community and solidarity with the people who sell the produce.

Through the contrast between the wealthy and the poor, the poem highlights the social and economic inequalities that exist in society. The wealthy are portrayed as shallow and self-centered, while the poor are portrayed as honest and hardworking. The poem is a criticism of the materialistic values that dominate modern society and a call for a return to simpler and more authentic ways of life.

Conflict is a vital part of the poem. His wish to quickly end the villagers' suffering shows their compassion. However, taking such a drastic step also shows how morally complex the decision is. This conflict adds depth to the speaker's character and reflects the challenges of solving social problems.

Thus, using vivid imagery, irony and deep thinking the poem shows the complex relationships between people, their environment, and progress and encourages readers to think about how these factors affect individual lives and society as a whole.

6. 'A Roadside Stand' and 'Lost Spring' depict two contrasting worlds existing in society. Justify the statement with reference to the poem 'A Roadside Stand' and the text 'Lost Spring'.

You may begin this way

Social Satire in the two texts portrays two contrasting worlds that exist in society.

Competency Based

Ans. Social satire in the two texts portrays two contrasting worlds that exist in society. In Robert Frost's poem 'A Roadside Stand', the stand symbolises resilience and independence in the face of economic hardship. Despite their modest means, the stand's owners show dignity and self-reliance, presenting a rustic charm that goes against societal expectations.

On the other hand, 'Lost Spring' by Anees Jung delves into the harsh realities of child labour and poverty in India. The story exposes the exploitation and deprivation faced by children like Saheb, who scavenge for a living amidst the grandiose of urban India. The stark juxtaposition of wealth and poverty highlights the systemic inequalities that persist within society..

While 'A Roadside Stand' celebrates the courage and determination of individuals to carve out a livelihood, 'Lost Spring' exposes the harsh realities faced by marginalised communities. Together, they offer a critical commentary on the different experiences and socio-economic disparities prevalent in society.