INDIAN SCHOOL NIZWA - WORKSHEET

ENGLISH
KEEPING QUIET

Name: _____ Date:_____ Class: XII Sec: ___

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

1 *Now we will count to twelve,*
and we will all keep still.
For once on the face of the Earth,
let's not speak in any language,
let's stop for one second,
and not move our arms so much.

a. How long does the poet want to stay still?
b. What does he hope to achieve by keeping quiet?
c. What does the poet mean by "not move our arms so much"?
d. Why does the poet suggest us not to speak in any language?

2 *Perhaps the Earth can teach us*
as when everything seems dead
and later proves to be alive
Now I'll count upto twelve
and you keep quiet and I will go.

a. What does the Earth teach us?
b. What is the significance of 'keeping quiet'?
c. What is always alive, even when everything seems to be dead?

3 *"If we were not so single-minded*
about keeping our lives moving,
and for once could do nothing,
perhaps a huge silence
might interrupt this sadness
of never understanding ourselves
and of threatening ourselves with death.

a. Whom does 'we' refer to in the above lines?
b. Why does the poet want us to 'do nothing' for once?
c. What is the'sadness'that the poet refers to in the poem?
d. How can a huge silence do good to us?

SHORT QUESTIONS

1 What is the sadness that the poet refers to in the poem 'Keeping Quiet'? or
2 What is the sadness that the poet refers to in the poem? (All India 2011) Which images in the poem 'Keeping Quiet' show that the poet condemns violence?
3 What symbol from nature does the poet use to prove that keeping quiet is not total inactivity?
4 How can suspension of activities help?
5 Do you think the poet advocates total inactivity and death?