

THE CRY OF CHILDREN

Questions and Answers:

1. **What kind of places are the children working in?**

Answer: The children are working as child labour in the factories, which are dark and greasy.

2. **'The reddest flower would look as pale as snow.' What does the phrase 'reddest flower' refer to? Why does it become pale?**

Answer: The phrase 'reddest flower' refers to the little eyes of the children who work all day long in underground, through coal and factories. It refers to the children with hopes and aspirations.

It becomes pale as the children work day long in the factories. They become so tired that their hopes seem pale and as white as snow. They become so tired that they just want to droop their eyelids.

3. **How does the work affect the children?**

Answer: The work affect the children terribly. They all become tired and lose their strength. Sometimes, they used to care for meadows, not to enjoy its beauty but to stop

and rest. Their hopes and aspirations all become pale and they just want to stop and rest after having a terrible hardworking day.

4. Do children enjoy themselves when engaged in work?

Answer: No, the children do not enjoy themselves when engaged in work. They become tired and lose their strength. In the poem, the children tell about how stoop and how their eyelids droop due to weakness.

5. If the poem were written from the point of view of a factory owner, what kind of things would he say about children?

Answer: If the poem were written from the point of view of a factory owner he would not have thought much of the children's pain. He would have probably thought the children are poor and they ought to work to sustain their family.

6. What is the poet's attitude towards child labour? Pick out the words/expressions that reveal her attitude.

Answer: The poet asks the listener to pay attention to the child labours. She is not happy with the terrible life of the children.

Expressions that reveal her attitude are towards child labour are “ For oh, tremble knees, heavy eyelids, drooping, sorely, stooping”.