

***FIRE AND ICE BY ROBERT FROST***

**Read the following extracts carefully and answer the questions that follow.**

**Question 1.**

Some say the world will end in fire  
Some say in ice.  
From what I've tasted of desire  
I hold with those who favour fire.

- (a) What is the poet's opinion of the world in these lines?
- (b) What is the poet's opinion about the world?
- (c) What is the contradictory opinion of public?
- (d) How are ice and fire similar to each other though they have contradictory traits?

**Answer:**

- (a) In the poet's opinion the world will end in fire.
- (b) According to the poet, the world will end in fire.
- (c) The contradictory opinion of public is the debate whether the world will end in fire or ice.
- (d) Both ice and fire are similar in the in the sense that both of them would destroy everything in the world.

**Question 2.**

But if it had to perish twice I think I know enough of hate To say that for destruction ice Is also great And would suffice.

- (a) What does 'it' refers to in the first line?
- (b) What do you mean by 'perish'?
- (c) What does ice stand for?
- (d) What would be the cause of destruction?

**Answer:**

- (a) 'It' refers to the world.
- (b) Perish means to die or to be destroyed.
- (c) Ice stands for coldness.
- (d) Ice or fire would be the cause of destruction.

**ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTION:-**

1. For Frost, what do 'fire' and 'ice' stand for?

ANS-The word 'fire' stands for desire. In the poem, it indicates all types of greed and lust. In today's world, mankind's greed is endangering the very existence of the planet Earth. The word 'ice' in the poem indicates hatred and indifference which is as cold as 'ice'

2. Write down the two different views about the end of the world?

ANS-There is a debate that is going on about the end of the world. People say that the world will end in fire or in ice. World is transitory, nothing is perennial in this universe.

3. Why does the poet hold with those who favour fire?

ANS-The poet takes side with those who believe that the world will be destroyed by fire. Frost connects fire with desire. According to the poet, desire is powerful and would be a quick end. Moreover, the fact that he has had personal experience with desire leads him to first conclude that the world will end in fire.

#### 4. Briefly write about the ideas about how the world will end.

ANS- The world will end as a direct result of either fire or ice. Some scientists believed that the world would be incinerated from its fiery core, while others were convinced that the coming ice age would destroy all living things on the Earth's surface. Frost introduces a more emotional side, associating desire with fire and hatred with ice. The poem, thus, does not allow for any other opinions in the black and white debate between fire and ice.

#### 5. To say that for destruction ice is also great for the poet, what does 'ice' stand for? How is it sufficient to bring destruction?

ANS- 'Ice' symbolises hatred. Hate is just as powerful as desire. While desire consumes quickly, hate can occur and linger in people's minds and hearts for years and sometimes even lifetimes. Hate consumes the hater perhaps even more than the person or group hated and it can ruin lives. Hate can, thus, be very destructive and sufficient to bring destruction.

#### 6. 'But if it had to perish twice'. How will the world perish twice?

ANS- According to the poet, the world will end due to the 'fire', which symbolises desire. But if the world had to end twice then it will be due to the hatred symbolised by 'ice'. The poet feels that there is enough hatred in the world that is spreading among the people. This hatred will end the world one day.

#### 7. Which age old question does the poem revolves around?

ANS- The poem revolves around the age old question of whether the world will end in fire or in ice. This is similar to another age old question, whether it would be preferable to freeze to death or burn to death. The poet determines that either option would achieve its purpose sufficiently well.

#### 8. How can fire destroy the world?

Ans- 'Fire' symbolizes passion or hatred. It will lead to conflicts and ultimately result in the destruction of the world. Fire represents desire that is fervent, consuming, always wanting more. Ice represents hatred that is hard and cold.

#### 9. What message does the poet wish to convey through the poem 'Fire and 'Ice'? What is the central idea of the poem 'Fire and 'Ice'?

Ans - The poet presents two possibilities about the end of the world. It will be either due to 'Fire and 'Ice' he prefers the first as he believes the world will end in fire but the ice will not go away.

#### 10. What does the poet think about the end of the world?

Ans- The poet thinks about the end of the world that people think fire is the main cause of destruction. But by the end of the poem he says that both Fire and Ice are equally destructive. Both have the same power of causing destruction.

#### 11. What do 'Fire' and 'Ice' symbolize in the poem 'Fire' and 'Ice'?

Ans- 'Fire' and 'Ice' are symbolized here. 'Fire' stands for conflict, fury, intolerance, insensitivity while 'Ice' stands for greed, avarice, lust, rigidity, coldness, indifference, hatred, etc.