

ENGLISH

CHAPTER 6: WHEN I SET OUT FOR LYONNESSE



WHEN I SET OUT FOR LYONNESSE

~Summary~

-by Thomas Hardy

The poem 'When I set out for Layonnesse' by Thomas Hardy revolves around the poet's **journey** to a church in **Cornwall**. He names the place as **Layonnesse**, which is a hundred miles away. The poet starts on a **chill winter season** when there is frost on **leaves**. He sets out on a journey to Layonnesse when his life is **gloomy**. He is **lonesome** that is brightened by **starlight**. He is also **curious** to know the end result of the journey. He believes that no **prophet** or **wizard** can ever **foretell** what his experience will be in Layonnesse. But when he returns from the **church**, his **eyes** glow with **magic** and his face radiates **happiness** and peace. He finally finds **meaning** to his life from the **journey**.

~Conclusion~

The poem is a very insightful piece of work that tells us how things happen to us when we least expect them and that no matter what we plan, there is another plan for us by God which no one can predict.

NCERT SOLUTIONS**Questions (Page No. 84)**
(Working with the poem)

Question 1. In the first stanza, find words that show:

- a. that it was very cold.
- b. that it was late evening.
- c. that the traveller was alone.

Answer:

- a. Rime.
- b. Starlight.
- c. Lonesomeness.

Question 2.

- i. Something happened at Lyonesse. It was:
 - a. Improbable.
 - b. Impossible.
 - c. Unforeseeable.
- ii. Pick out two lines from stanza 2 to justify your answer.

Answer:

- i.
 - c. Unforeseeable.

- ii.
 - a. No prophet durst declare.
 - b. Nor did the wisest wizard guess.

Question 3. Read the line (stanza 3) that implies the following. 'Everyone noticed something, and they made guesses, but didn't speak a word'.

Answer:

- a. 'All marked with mute surmise'.
- b. 'All marked with mute surmise'.

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