Form 5
Are You Still Playing Your Flute?

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Panel of writers

Curriculum Development Division. Ministry of Education Malaysia 2010
Introduction

About the poet

Zurina Hassan was born on 13th June, 1949, at Alor Star, Kedah. She obtained her basic degree B.A (HONS) from USM, followed by her M.A from UPM and finally Phd from Academic of Malay Studies of UM. The following are some of the few awards achieved by Zurina Hassan.

AWARDS:

- S.E.A. Writer’s Award (Anugerah Penulisan Asia Tenggara)
- Book Category Award

Source: http://zahuren.wordpress.com/poems/are-you-still-playing-flute/
ARE YOU STILL PLAYING YOUR FLUTE?
Zurinah Hassan

Are you still playing your flute?
When there is hardly time for our love
I am feeling guilty
To be longing for your song
The melody concealed in the slim hollow of the bamboo
Uncovered by the breath of an artist
Composed by his fingers
Blown by the wind
To the depth of my heart.

Are you still playing the flute?
In the village so quiet and deserted
Amidst the sick rice field
While here it has become a luxury
To spend time watching the rain
Gazing at the evening rays
Collecting dew drops
Or enjoying the fragrance of flowers.

Are you still playing your flute?
The more it disturbs my conscience
to be thinking of you
in the hazard of you
my younger brothers unemployed and desperate
my people disunited by politics
my friend slaughtered mercilessly
this world is too old and bleeding
This poem is told from a first person point of view, where the persona, reminisces her feeling of guilt, missing the beautiful melody of the bamboo flute played by her beloved long ago. She later questions and wonders if the flute is still being played now, as the village is now under populated and the paddy field is in a deplorable state. She mentions that, nowadays, relaxing and savoring the beauty of nature is a rare luxury. In the final stanza, she questions for the third time, whether her beloved is still playing the flute. This time around, she admits that she couldn’t help but on the contrary, she feels guilty to be thinking of their love at their difficult times. The hardships portrayed here are unemployed young men, people disunited by politics and a ‘dying’ world.
ARE YOU STILL PLAYING YOUR FLUTE?

Elements

Setting

The poem is set in a rural Malay village, which is undergoing a change. It is a quiet and deserted village. The paddy fields looked barren. Nevertheless, the ‘luxuries’, such as watching the rain, gazing at the evening rays, collecting dew drops and enjoying the fragrance of the flower, still exist in the rural.

Themes

- Adapting to changes. This is inevitable. We need to adapt to all kinds of social, economic and political changes. In this poem, the flutist is aloof to changes happening around him.
- Love and appreciate the arts.
- Love and appreciate the arts.

Moral Values

- **Aware of your family commitment.**
  Everyone needs to take responsibility to the changes that take place in life and act accordingly. The flutist does not succumb to the changes around him. He clings on to his roots. He is not aware of his family commitments. The persona, his former lover has progressed in life while he still leads his conventional lifestyle.

- **Get your priorities right.**
  Eg: Village nowadays is left quiet and deserted. Rice fields are left barren, but the flutist continues to play his flute. He needs to realize there is time to play and time to work. Hence, one must get his priorities right.

Literary Devices

- **Point of View**
  Written in first person point of view

- **Structure**
  3 Stanzas (1\(^{st}\) stanza - 9 lines; 2\(^{nd}\) stanza – 8 lines; 3\(^{rd}\) stanza – 8 lines)

- **Rhyme Scheme**
  Free Verse
**Repetition**

- In this poem the question “Are you still playing your flute?” is repeated three times. Each time, the question is asked in a different tone.
- The word ‘my’ repeated in stanza 3, line 5-7. This emphasises how the persona care for people who are close to her.

**Personification**: Portrays human suffering

- ‘the sick rice field’
- ‘this world is too old and bleeding’

**Metaphor**: sick rice field (stanza 2, line 3)

- The word ‘sick’ is used to describe the rice field. This gives us an idea that the rice field is barren.

**Symbol**

- Flute is a symbol of solace or comfort.

**Tone**

- First stanza, the persona is longing to hear her beloved playing his flute.
- Second stanza, nostalgic, when the persona recalls how she used to enjoy the luxury of nature.
- Third stanza, the persona sounds worried as she addresses the violence that is taking place around her.

**Diction** is used to illustrate the persona’s idea.

- Stanza 1, line 1-9 explains how the music from the flute by the flutist mesmerized the persona.
- Stanza 2, line 2-8, the beauty of nature is emphasized.

**Alliteration** of the sound /f/

- ….fragrance of flowers

**Language and style**

- Rhetorical question
- Descriptive and questioning
- Simple style and no rhyme
Your opinion, please

Time: 80 minutes

**Aims**

1. To train students to visualize the poem and appreciate the music.

**Materials**

1. Picture cards
2. Computer and LCD

**Steps**

1. Students will view 3 different versions of flute pieces, played by an Indian, Chinese and Malay musician. *(refer to the youtube sites in notes)*
2. Pose a few questions leading to the poem. (Worksheet 1)
3. Students will view pictures in worksheet 1 and describe them.
4. Divide students into groups of 5. They are required to present their opinion based on the pictures and video clips they have viewed in the provided space.
5. Conduct a class discussion on the opinions presented by each group.

**Notes**

Teacher creates an opinion card, where each group could write their opinion before their presentation. These cards can be placed on the classroom English Board, for others to read and compare notes.

Sites for the flute music:

- www.youtube.com/watch?v=RXeJ78FAzXQ
- www.youtube.com/watch?v=ebm4VLtxLg
- http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WRqM_JVrGKs
Suggested Questions (to be answered orally):

1. Do you listen to / play musical instruments? What instrument do you play?

2. When do you listen to / play musical instruments?

3. Can anyone play a recorder or a flute?

4. Do you enjoy listening to music?

5. Which musician do you like the best? Why? (After viewing the music video clips)
Worksheet 1: Describe the pictures below with your own words.

Source: http://www.googleimage.com.my
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Image 1</th>
<th>Image 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Image 3</td>
<td>Image 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Image 5</td>
<td>Image 6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### YOUR OPINION

**WRITE SENTENCES ABOUT THE PICTURES ABOVE**

1. 
2. 
3. 
4. 
5. 
6. 
7. 
8. 
9. 
10. 
11. 
12. 
13. 
14. 
15. 
16. 
17. 
18. 
19. 
20. 

Poetry in motion

Time: 40 minutes

Aims

1. To express emotions and actions portrayed in the poem.

Materials

1. Worksheet 2a
2. Worksheet 2b

Steps

1. Divide the class into groups of five.
2. Distribute worksheet 2a. Students portray emotion or act out the action given to each group.
3. Teacher could provide cards and allow the students to draw the pictures of emotions or replicas to support their action or expression.
4. Distribute worksheet 2b. Students are required to match the expression with the pictures. Discuss the answers.
5. Each group recites one stanza. Each group will take turns to present their stanza
6. Groups present the entire poem as poetry in motion.

Notes

Students could use their imagination and creativity to portray their emotion. Eg: Props to support their action.
ARE YOU STILL PLAYING YOUR FLUTE?

Poetry in motion

WORKSHEET 2a

WORD STRIPS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Playing flute</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Love</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guilty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Longing for</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blown by the wind</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Watching the rain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gazing at the evening rays</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Collecting dew drops</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enjoying the fragrance of flowers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thinking of you</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Desperate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slaughtered mercilessly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Old and bleeding</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Label each picture with an expression

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stressed</th>
<th>Disgusted</th>
<th>Doubtful</th>
<th>Snob</th>
<th>Shocked</th>
<th>Happy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Horror</td>
<td>Affection</td>
<td>Sad</td>
<td>Silly</td>
<td>Bored</td>
<td>Surprised</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: http://www.google.com/images
Are you still playing your flute?
When there is hardly time for our love
I am feeling guilty
To be longing for your song
The melody concealed in the slim hollow of the bamboo
Uncovered by the breath of an artist
Composed by his fingers
Blown by the wind
To the depth of my heart.

Are you still playing your flute?
In the village so quiet and deserted
Amidst the sick rice field
While here it has become a luxury
To spend time watching the rain
Gazing at the evening rays
Collecting dew drops
Or enjoying the fragrance of flowers

Are you still playing your flute?
The more it disturbs my conscience
to be thinking of you
in the hazard of you
my younger brothers unemployed and desperate
my people disunited by politics
my friend slaughtered mercilessly
this world is too old and bleeding
Understanding the Poem

Time: 160 minutes

Aims

1. To be able to find the meaning of words and phrases by using the dictionary or online dictionary.

Materials

1. Worksheet 3
2. Dictionary/online dictionary

Steps

1. Distribute Worksheet 3 to students to find the literal meaning pertaining the poem.
2. Students refer to the dictionary or online dictionary to get the meaning.
3. Students write the meaning of the given phrases based on contextual clues.
4. Students present their answers and compare notes with their peers and teacher.
5. Students paraphrase all three stanzas in groups of five.
6. Students present their answers and compare with other groups (with teacher's guidance).
7. Students explain why the persona asks the same question thrice. Students present their answers orally.

Notes

Step 7 calls for an open discussion with teacher's guidance.
A. Familiarize the words

Write the literal meaning of these words pertaining to the poem:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Words</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
<th>Words</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Longing</td>
<td>Blown</td>
<td>Depth</td>
<td>Amidst</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fragrance</td>
<td>Hazard</td>
<td>Composed</td>
<td>Conscience</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deserted</td>
<td>Luxury</td>
<td>Desperate</td>
<td>Mercilessly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uncovered</td>
<td>Concealed</td>
<td>Dew drops</td>
<td>Enjoying</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flute</td>
<td>Slaughtered</td>
<td>Gazing</td>
<td>Disunited</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

B. State the meaning of these phrases:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Phrases</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hardly time for our love</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Longing for your song</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Melody concealed</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Depth of my heart</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It has become a luxury</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spend time watching</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------------</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disturbs my conscience</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In the hazard of you</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friends slaughtered mercilessly</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World is too old and bleeding</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

C. Paraphrase each stanza in your own words.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Are you still playing your flute?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>When there is hardly time for our love</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I am feeling guilty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To be longing for your song</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The melody concealed in the slim hollow of the bamboo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uncovered by the breath of an artist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Composed by his fingers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blown by the wind</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To the depth of my heart.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Are you still playing your flute?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In the village so quiet and deserted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amidst the sick rice field</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>While here it has become a luxury</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To spend time watching the rain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gazing at the evening rays</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Collecting dew drops</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Or enjoying the fragrance of flowers.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Are you still playing your flute?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The more it disturbs my conscience</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>to be thinking of you</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>in the hazard of you</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>my younger brothers unemployed and desperate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>my people disunited by politics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>my friend slaughtered mercilessly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>this world is too old and bleeding</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In your own words explain why did the persona repeat the question, ‘Are you still playing your flute?’ three times.

_________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________
VALUES IN LIFE

Time: 80 minutes

Aims

1. To enable students to identify moral values found in the poem

Materials

1. Worksheet 4

Steps

1. Teacher discusses general views of moral values in the poem with students.
2. Students match the moral values which relates to the lines found in the poem and give reasons for their chosen answers. Worksheet 4 [exercise 1]
3. Students get in groups of three, and relate examples in life pertaining to the moral values and present it in the class. Worksheet 4 [exercise 2]

Notes
ARE YOU STILL PLAYING YOUR FLUTE?  WORKSHEET 4

Values in life

EXERCISE 1
Write A, B or C in the box provided beside the lines from the poem, to indicate the moral values and support your answers with reasons.

A  Aware of our family commitments and be responsible.
B  Get your priorities right, what is important and what is not.
C  Realize that there is time to play and time to work.

1. Are you still playing the flute?
2. Spend time watching the rain
3. Gaze at the evening rays
4. Collecting dew drops
5. My younger brothers unemployed
6. People disunited by politics
7. Disturbs my conscience

EXERCISE 2
State the example in your life pertaining to the moral values

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MORAL VALUE</th>
<th>REAL LIFE EXAMPLES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aware of our family commitments</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Get your priorities right, what is important and what is not.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Realize that there is time to play and time to work.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Aims

1. To enable students to identify words that describe emotions and actions.
2. To enable students to explain the meaning of the poem clearly.

Materials

1. Dictionary/online dictionary.
2. Worksheets.

Steps

1. Students are given handout (Worksheet 5a) of the poem ‘Are you still playing your flute?’
2. Students are required to circle words which describe emotion and underline the actions found in the poem. (Worksheet 5a)
3. Students are given the first stanza, where they are required to replace the underlined words with a synonym in the first stanza and recite that stanza. (Worksheet 5b)
4. Teacher and students discuss the message sent through the poem.

Notes

*Step 2 – Worksheet 5a teacher could use color code instead of circling and underlining.

*Step 3 – Worksheet 5b
Try this!

1. **Circle** words which describe emotion
2. **Underline** the actions found in this poem

Are you still playing your flute?
When there is hardly time for our love
I am feeling guilty
To be longing for your song
The melody concealed in the slim hollow of the bamboo
Uncovered by the breath of an artist
Composed by his fingers
Blown by the wind
To the depth of my heart.

Are you still playing your flute?
In the village so quiet and deserted
Amidst the sick rice field
While here it has become a luxury
To spend time watching the rain
Gazing at the evening rays
Collecting dew drops
Or enjoying the fragrance of flowers.

Are you still playing your flute?
The more it disturbs my conscience
to be thinking of you
in the hazard of you
my younger brothers unemployed and desperate
my people disunited by politics
my friend slaughtered mercilessly
this world is too old and bleeding
Replace the underlined words with a synonym.

Are you still playing your flute?
When there is hardly time for our love
I am feeling guilty
To be longing for your song
The melody concealed in the slim hollow of the bamboo
Uncovered by the breath of an artist
Composed by his fingers
Blown by the wind
To the depth of my heart.

Are you still __________ your flute?
When there is __________ time for our love
I am feeling __________
To be __________ for your song
The melody __________ in the slim hollow of the bamboo
________________ by the breath of an artist
________________ by his fingers
________________ the wind
To the __________ of my heart.
**Aims**

1. To learn poem and rhythm in a fun way.
2. To train students in spelling.

**Materials**

1. Worksheet 6

**Steps**

1. Get students to sit in groups of 3-4.
2. Distribute Worksheet 6 to them. Tell students to unscramble the letters to form words that will in turn form phrases from the poem.
3. The group that is able to unscramble all the phrases correctly wins.

**Notes**

Students are not encouraged to refer to their poetry text.

The group that finishes with all correct answers wins.
The following words are related to the poem 'Are You Still Playing Your Flute' by Zurinah Hassan. Unscramble them to find out the correct phrases.

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>GYINALP ROYU ELUFT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>DLYRAH MITE ROF ROU ELOV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>GILNEEF TLYIUG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>GINNOLG ORF ROYU GONS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>OLDYEM DELAENOCC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>THREAB FO NA TISTRA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>DEPOSOMC YB SHI SINGERF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>LOWNB YB HET DIWN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>THEPD FO YM THREA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>TIEQU DAN SEREDED</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>HET KICS CIRE DIELF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>COBEME A RUXLUY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>OT PENDS MITE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>CHINTAW HET NAIR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>ZINGAG NINGEVE SAYR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>LECTINGCOL WED PODSR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>RANCEFRAG FO WERSFLO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>TURBSSID YM SCIENCENOC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>KINGTHIN FO OYU</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>RAZDAH FO UYO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>PLOYMENUDAN PERATESED</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>DETINUSID YB SCITIOP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>LAUGHTERDES ICRESSELYL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>DOL DAN GLEDEBIN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>YM GONUYER ORBHERTS</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**ARE YOU STILL PLAYING YOUR FLUTE?**

**ASSESSMENT/WORKSHEET 7**

## Assessment 1

Write TRUE or FALSE for each statement below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statements</th>
<th>True/False</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. The persona is listening to the man playing the flute.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. She is feeling happy.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. The music was produced by the guitar.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. A flute is a slim hollow instrument.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. The persona’s village is lively and noisy.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. The nation’s economy is not in a good state.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. The meaning of concealed is revealed.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Gazing at evening rays is a luxury.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. The younger generations are jobless.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. People are united by politics.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Read the first stanza of this poem and answer the following questions.

Are you still playing your flute?
When there is hardly time for our love
I am feeling guilty
To be longing for your song
The melody concealed in the slim hollow of the bamboo
Uncovered by the breath of an artist
Composed by his fingers
Blown by the wind
To the depth of my heart.

1. What is the meaning of this line, ‘there is hardly time for our love’?

___________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________

2. The word artist is line 6 refers to……

___________________________________________________________________

3. Which line suggests that the flutist is talented?

___________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________
Answer the following questions based on this stanza.

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>State the activities that had become luxury.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>_______________________________________________________________________________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>_______________________________________________________________________________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>What does the word here refer to?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>_______________________________________________________________________________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>What is the evidence which proves that the village had been abandoned?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>_______________________________________________________________________________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>_______________________________________________________________________________</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Are you still playing your flute
In the village so quiet and deserted
Amidst the sick rice field
While here it has become a luxury
To spend time watching the rain
Gazing at the evening rays
Collecting dew drops
Or enjoying the fragrance of flowers.
Are you still playing your flute?
The more it disturbs my conscience
to be thinking of you
in the hazard of you
my younger brothers unemployed and desperate
my people disunited by politics
my friend slaughtered mercilessly
this world is too old and bleeding

1. The phrase ‘younger brother’ refers to…

2. Which line from this stanza explains the existence of violence?

3. What caused the people to be disunited?
Answer the following questions based on this stanza.

Are you still playing the flute?
In the village so quiet and deserted
Amidst the sick rice field
While here it has become a luxury
To spend time watching the rain
Gazing at the evening rays
Collecting dew drops
Or enjoying the fragrance of flowers.

1. What are the things the persona enjoys doing in the village?

___________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________

2. What is the atmosphere in the village?

___________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________

3. What is the persona trying to tell us about the changes in her life?

___________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________
Answer Key

ACTIVITY 1 : Your opinion, please
Accept any logical answers.

ACTIVITY 2b : Poetry in motion

- Shock
- Snob
- Doubtful
- Disgusted
- Sad
- Affection
- Surprised
- Stressed
- Horror
- Bored
- Silly
- Happy
### ACTIVITY 3: Understanding

Write the literal meaning of these words pertaining to the poem:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Words</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
<th>Words</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Longing</td>
<td>A strong feeling of wanting something/somebody</td>
<td>Blown</td>
<td>Swept away by the wind</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Depth</td>
<td>Strength</td>
<td>Amidst</td>
<td>Among</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fragrance</td>
<td>A pleasant smell</td>
<td>Hazard</td>
<td>Endanger</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Composed</td>
<td>To be made or formed</td>
<td>Conscience</td>
<td>The part of your mind that tells you whether your actions are right or wrong</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deserted</td>
<td>Left by people who do not intend to return</td>
<td>Luxury</td>
<td>A pleasure or an advantage that you do not often have</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Desperate</td>
<td>Feeling or showing that you have little hope and are ready to do anything without worrying endangering yourself or others.</td>
<td>Mercilessly</td>
<td>Showing no kindness or pity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uncovered</td>
<td>Exposed</td>
<td>Concealed</td>
<td>To hide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dew drops</td>
<td>A small drop of water from the morning mist</td>
<td>Enjoying</td>
<td>Appreciating</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>flute</td>
<td>A musical instrument made of bamboo and shaped like a thin pipe. The player holds it sideways and blows across a hole at one end as he presses the key.</td>
<td>Slaughtered</td>
<td>Killed brutally</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gazing</td>
<td>To look steadily at somebody/something for a long time, either because you are very interested or surprised, or because you are thinking of something else</td>
<td>Disunited</td>
<td>Group of people who are unable to agree with each other or work together</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
State the meaning of these phrases:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Phrases</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hardly time for our love</td>
<td>No time to show that you care</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Longing for your song</td>
<td>A strong feeling of wanting to listen to the song</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Melody concealed</td>
<td>The hidden music/tune</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Depth of my heart</td>
<td>Deeply attached to the heart/emotions affectionately</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It has become a luxury</td>
<td>A pleasure or an advantage that you do not often have</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To spend time watching the rain</td>
<td>Spare the time to admire the rain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disturbs my conscience</td>
<td>Interrupts my guilty feeling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In the hazard of you</td>
<td>Endangers you</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friends slaughtered mercilessly</td>
<td>People who you care for are cruelly killed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World is too old and bleeding</td>
<td>Changes which had taken place in the country that caused the people and nature to suffer.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Paraphrase each stanza in your own words.

Are you still playing your flute? The persona questions herself if her beloved is still playing the flute, when there is no time to show that one cares for each other. Though persona feels it is not right to yearn for his music from the flute, the tune is deeply attached to her affectionately.

When there is hardly time for our love
I am feeling guilty
To be longing for your song
The melody concealed in the slim hollow of the bamboo
Uncovered by the breath of an artist
Composed by his fingers
Blown by the wind
To the depth of my heart.

Are you still playing the flute? The persona finds that the village had been abandoned by the villagers and the paddy fields unattended. She recalls that, admiring the rain, staring at the sunray during the dusk, collecting dew drops and enjoying the pleasant smell of flowers and nature had become a luxury or an advantage that you do not find anymore.

In the village so quiet and deserted
Amidst the sick rice field
While here it has become a luxury
To spend time watching the rain
Gazing at the evening rays
Collecting dew drops
Or enjoying the fragrance of flowers.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Are you still playing your flute?</th>
<th>The persona feels guilty for yearning for the special person as her countrymen are jobless and willing to commit anything for a job. They are separated by different political views. People whom you care for, are brutally killed. Meanwhile the world resembles a sickly and dying old man.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The more it disturbs my conscience to be thinking of you in the hazard of you my younger brothers unemployed and desperate my people disunited by politics my friend slaughtered mercilessly this world is too old and bleeding</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In your own words explain why the persona repeated the question, ‘Are you still playing your flute?’ in all the stanzas.

The repetition of this question shows shock and disbelief. The persona stresses that the flutist is not worried about the changes that take place around him, whereas, she is disturbed by the happenings around her.
### ACTIVITY 4: Values in life

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MORAL VALUES</th>
<th>LINES FROM THE POEM</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A   Aware of our family commitments</td>
<td>Are you still playing the flute?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Spend time watching the rain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B   Get your priorities right, what is important and what is not.</td>
<td>Gaze at the evening rays</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Collecting dew drops</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C   Realize that there is time to play and time to work.</td>
<td>My younger brothers unemployed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>People disunited by politics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Disturbs my conscience</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MORAL VALUE</th>
<th>REAL LIFE EXAMPLES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aware of our family commitments</td>
<td>• Keeping our room clean.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Take care of our siblings when parents are away</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Get your priorities right, what is important and what is not.</td>
<td>• Attending tuition classes to improve subjects we are weak at, instead of picnicking with friends every weekend</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Realize that there is time to play and time to work.</td>
<td>• Have a personal timetable to strike a balance between study hours and games.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Spend time talking to your family members once in a while, instead of chatting online with strangers.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Activity 5a  : Try this

1. Circle words which describe emotion. (In this answer key, it is bolded)
2. Underline the actions found in this poem.

Are you still playing your flute?
When there is hardly time for our love
I am feeling guilty
To be for your song
The melody concealed in the slim hollow of the bamboo
Uncovered by the breath of an artist
Composed by his fingers longing
Blown by the wind
To the depth of my heart.

Are you still playing your flute?
In the village so quiet and deserted
Amidst the sick rice field
While here it has become a luxury
To spend time watching the rain
Gazing at the evening rays
Collecting dew drops
Or enjoying the fragrance of flowers.

Are you still playing your flute?
The more it disturbs my conscience
to be thinking of you
in the hazard of you
my younger brothers unemployed and desperate
my people disunited by politics
my friend slaughtered mercilessly
this world is too old and bleeding
Activity 5b : Try this

Are you still blowing your flute?
When there is no time for our love
I am feeling wronged
To be yearning for your song
The melody captured in the slim hollow of the bamboo
Exposed by the breath of an artist
Played or Created by his fingers
Taken away by the wind
To the bottom of my heart.

Activity 6 : Guess what

1. GYINALP ROYU ELUFT - PLAYING YOUR FLUTE
2. DLYRAH MITE ROF ROU ELOV - HARDLY TIME FOR OUR LOVE
3. GILNEEF TYLIU - FEELING GUILTY
4. GINNOLG ORF ROYU GONS - LONGING FOR YOUR SONG
5. OLDYEM DELAENOCC - MELODY CONCEALED
6. THREAD FO NA TISTRA - BREATH OF AN ARTIST
7. DEPOSOMC YB SHI SINGERF - COMPOSED BY HIS FINGERS
8. LOWNB YB HET DIWN - BLOWN BY THE WIND
9. THEPD FO YM THREA - DEPTH OF MY HEART
10. TIEQU DAN SEREDED - QUIET AND DESERTED
11. HET KICS CIRE DIELF - THE SICK RICE FIELD
12. COBEME A RUXLUY - BECOME A LUXURY
13. OT PENDS MITE - TO SPEND TIME
14. CHINTAW HET NAIR - WATCHING THE RAIN
15. ZINGAG NINGEVE SAYR - GAZING EVENING RAYS
16. LECTINGCOL WED PODSR - COLLECTING DEW DROPS
17. RANCEFRAG FO WERSFLO - FRAGRANCE OF FLOWERS
18. TURBSSID YM SCIENCENOC - DISTURBS MY CONSCIENCE
19. KINGTHIN FO OYU - THINKING OF YOU
20. RAZDAH FO UYO - HAZARD OF YOU
21. PLOYMENUDE DAN PERATESED - UNEMPLOYED AND DESPERATE
22. DETINUSID YB SCITIOP - DISUNITED BY POLITICS
23. LAUGHTERDES ICREMSESSELYL - SLAUGHTERED MERCILESSLY
24. DOL DAN GLEDEBIN - OLD AND BLEEDING
25. YM GONUYER ORBHERTS - MY YOUNGER BROTHERS
Worksheet 7 : Assessment 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statements</th>
<th>True/False</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. The persona is listening to the man playing the flute</td>
<td>True</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. She is feeling happy.</td>
<td>False</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. The music was concealed in the guitar.</td>
<td>False</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. A flute is a slim hollow instrument.</td>
<td>True</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. The persona’s village is lively and noisy.</td>
<td>False</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. The nation’s economy is not in a good state.</td>
<td>False</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. The meaning of concealed is revealed.</td>
<td>False</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Gazing at evening rays is a luxury.</td>
<td>True</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. The younger generations are jobless.</td>
<td>True</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. People are united by politics.</td>
<td>False</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Worksheet 8 : Assessment 2

1. The time is limited.
2. The flutist.
3. Composed by his fingers.

Worksheet 9 : Assessment 3

1. Watching the rain/ gazing the evening rays/ collecting dew drops/ enjoying the fragrance of flowers.
2. The town. / Urban area.
3. The village so quiet and deserted amidst the sick rice fields.

Worksheet 9 : Assessment 4

1. The younger generation.
2. My friend slaughtered mercilessly. Or This world is too old and bleeding.
3. Politics.

Worksheet 10 : Assessment 5

1. She likes to watch the rain and also the sunset. She loves to collect the dew drops and enjoys the smell of fragrant flowers.
2. It is quiet and deserted. The paddy fields are empty and almost abandoned.
3. Any suitable answers.
### Glossary

**Words** | **Meaning In Context**
--- | ---
Longing | a strong feeling of wanting something/somebody
Depth | strength
Fragrance | a pleasant smell
Composed | to be made or formed
Deserted | left by people who do not intend to return
Desperate | feeling or showing that you have little hope and are ready to do anything without worrying endangering yourself or others.
Uncovered | exposed
Dew drops | droplets of water from the morning mist
Flute | a musical instrument made of bamboo and shaped like a thin pipe. The player holds it sideways and blows across a hole at one end as he presses the key on the other end.
Gazing | to look steadily at somebody/something for a long time, either because you are very interested or surprised, or because you are thinking of something else
Amidst | among
Hazard | put in danger
Conscience | the part of your mind that tells you whether your actions are right or wrong
Luxury | a pleasure or an advantage that you do not often have
Mercilessly | showing no kindness or pity
Concealed | to hide
Slaughtered | killed brutally
Disunited | group of people who are unable to agree with each other or work together
ARE YOU STILL PLAYING YOUR FLUTE?

POETRY

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Masreen Wirda Bt Mohammad Ali
Tengku Ireneza Marina Tunku Mazlan
Eileen Jessie Ah Guan
Ng Yew Kee
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