

Reference to context with explanation

A) Reference to context: These lines have been taken from the poem, 'Mercy' authored by a renowned English poet, William Shakespeare. This poem is a part of the speech made by Portia when she tries to persuade shylock to show mercy on the poor Antonio and spare his life. In this poem, the poet talks about a godly attribute, mercy. The poet compares mercy to the earthly powers and imparts the idea that it is mercy that is mightier than the mightiest. The poet wants to say that by showing mercy, humans connect to God as they make an exhibition of a godly virtue.

Explanation:

These are the opening lines of the poem in which the poet says that mercy is such a quality that is natural to a human being. It is not produced by effort, it flows out from a person like a benign river. The poet believes mercy to be a heavenly quality that has descended from heavens and rested on the Earth. Mercy is the kind of a virtue that comes with double blessings for it blesses the both – the one who shows it and the one who receives it.

B) Reference to context:- Same as above

Explanation:- In these lines, the poet makes a great deal of praise of the virtue, mercy. He, after comparing mercy to the different worldly powers, comes to a conclusion that mercy has the greatest power among all. A crown which is a symbol of authority and grace is overshadowed by this heavenly quality that is christened as mercy. A king or a ruler can exercise his power, his force throughout his life time though his powers are limited on this earth only. They last for a short duration but time. The kingdoms where the king is so full of himself thinks high of himself, considers himself and his orders to be the best, are not the happy ones for there, in the hearts of the people, rests not the respect but fear of the monarch.

C) Reference to context:- Same as above

Explanation:- In these lines, the poet places mercy above the royal rule because mercy doesn't decorate our heads and is not present in the hands either. It

shelters itself in the pious most place of a human body i.e heart. Mercy is the quality that is present in God as well. Humans, by displaying this virtue, can thus relate themselves to the all supreme, the creator the Almighty. Humans ought to be just and fair while pronouncing the verdict against the culprits but they must always remember to adorn their justice with this heavenly quality known as mercy.

Character Sketch of the poet WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

William Shakespeare was an English poet, playwright and actor, widely regarded as the greatest writer in the English language and the world's pre-eminent dramatist. He is often called England's National Poet, and the "Bard of Avon". He was baptized on 26 April 1564 (birth date unknown). Shakespeare was born and brought up in Stratford. Upon – Avon Warwickshire. At the age of 18, he married Anne Hathaway. Sometime between 1585 & 1592 he began a successful career in London as an actor, writer and part-owner of a playing company called the Lord Chamberlain's Men.

Few records of Shakespear's private life survive, which has stimulated considerable speculation about such matters as his physical appearance, religious beliefs and whether the works attributed to him were written by others.

Some of his most popular plays include:

'A mid summers night drean', 'Hamlet',

'Much ado about nothing', 'Richard II',

Henry IV, 'Romeo and Juliet', Julius Ceaser etc.

His most famous poems include:

'Sonnet 29', 'All the world's a stage'

'A Fairy Song, Sonnet 71', 'The phoenic and the turtle'

Most biographers believe that Shakespeare was probably educated at the King's New School in Stratford. He died on 23 April, 1616 at the age of 52 in Stratford upon Avon.