

Worksheet 8: Money Madness

Name: _____ Class: _____ Roll No.: _____ Date: _____

Answer the questions with reference to the context.

1. I doubt if any man living hands out a pound note without a pang;
And a real tremor, if he hands out a ten-pound note.
We quail, money makes us quail.
It has got us down, we grovel before it in strange terror.
And no wonder, for money has a fearful cruel power among men.

a. What do the words 'without a pang' mean?

b. How is a ten-pound note handed over?

c. Why does money make us quail?

d. Why do we grovel before money in a strange manner?

2. But it is not money we are terrified of, it is the collective money-madness of mankind.

For mankind says with one voice: How much is he worth?
Has he no money? Then let him eat dirt, and go cold—

a. What is mankind actually terrified of?

b. On what is the worth of a person assessed?

c. What is the general reaction of people to a person with no money?

3. And if I have no money, they will give me a little bread,
So I do not die,
but they will make me eat dirt for it.
I shall have to eat dirt,
I shall have to eat dirt if I have no money.

a. What would a person with no money receive?

b. Why is the person given a little bread?

c. Is the 'dirt' being referred to, actual dirt? If not, what does it signify?

4. And this is wrong.
Bread should be free,
shelter should be free,
fire should be free
to all and anybody, all and anybody, all over the world.
We must regain our sanity about money
before we start killing one another about it.
It's one thing or the other.

a. What are the things that should be free according to the poet?

b. What does 'fire' signify?

c. Why does the poet repeat the words 'all and anybody'?

d. How can we regain our sanity about money?

e. What does the poet mean by 'It's one thing or the other'?
