ABOUT THE POEM
The poem What is Peace? attempts to define what peace is and where it resides. The poet goes beyond the representation of peace as a dove and tries to explain where one may see peace dwelling.

Reading comprehension

A. Answer these questions within 20 words each.

1. What does the speaker often ponder?
Ans. The speaker often ponders whether peace is abstract or concrete or the gentle dove or something more long lasting.

2. How do friends resolve disputes?
Ans. Friends often dissolve disputes with smiles and laughter, thus ending all fights.

3. When does peace become a powerful tool?
Ans. Peace becomes a powerful tool when countries reach a mutual agreement and stand hand in hand with unity.

B. Answer these questions in 30 to 40 words each.

a. In which households can one hope to find peace?
Answer. One can hope to find peace in households that work together. In spite of many differences that exist among the members when they come together, they remain united.

b. Does peace find a place among the different countries in the world? Give reasons for your answer.
Answer. Peace finds a place among the different countries when they meet to deliberate on issues that divide them. They finally come to a mutual agreement, resolving differences.

c. Explain the phrase, ‘togetherness is strength’.
Answer. Togetherness becomes strength when all differences are forgotten and only harmony prevails. When people resolve all their
disputes and become united, they become stronger by being together.

C. Answer these questions in 80-100 words each.

a. Summarise the poem in your own words.
Answer. The poet wonders whether peace is abstract or concrete. Is it the gentle dove that can be seen on hoardings, notices or pamphlets or something that endures for a longer period? Is it a principle that enriches and nourishes life itself? Peace is seen in households that walk together in spite of the differences that arise when members come together. It exists when neighbours meet not to exchange bitter words in anger but to greet each other. It blooms when friends diffuse their tensions with smiles and laughter, thus resolving all disputes. Peace can be seen when countries deliberate on issues that divide and not unify and finally reach a consensus so that they remain united. They stand hand in hand, peace thus finding a place here. Peace is not a gentle dove then but a very powerful tool that adds meaning to life. It then brings Supreme joy and success in every phase of life. All this becomes possible because togetherness is what leads to strength and harmony results in complete bliss.

b. How do you think peace adds meaning to our lives?
Answer. Peace adds meaning to our life because when there is harmony, we are able to function better without any tension or anxiety. Living with our fellow beings and family in peace makes our life not only happy but also purposeful. We draw strength from our relationships, we do not waste time in unnecessary disputes and allegations and become stronger by working together. We share not only our problems and find solutions to them but we also resolve all disputes by peaceful means, laughter and smiles.

D. Read these lines and answer the questions that follow.
   1. Or is it something more enduring
      A concept that enriches and nourishes life itself?
a. What is the boy talking about here?
   Answer. Here, the poet is talking about what peace is.

b. Why does the speaker feel that it can be something more enduring?
   Answer. The speaker feels that peace is something more enduring as it
   is a concept that enriches and nourishes life itself.

c. How does this concept nourish life?
   Answer. This concept nourishes life by adding meaning to it and
   bringing in supreme happiness and success in every corner.

2. Peace watches as a consensus they reach
   And hand in hand stand to bind one and all.

a. Who are ‘they’ referred to here?
   Answer. They referred to here are the different countries that meet
to discuss issues that divide.

b. What does the speaker say next?
   Answer. The speaker says that peace watches when these countries
reach a consensus and stand united hand in hand.

c. What kind of a consensus, do you think, does the poet refer to here?
   Answer. The poet is perhaps referring to the treaties and
agreements that are drawn up to mutual satisfaction to solve the
differences that exist among countries.

Appreciating the poem
Question: How far has the poet used this figure of speech effectively to
put across his or her thoughts in the poem?
Answer. The poet has used personification very effectively to put across her
thoughts in the poem. Peace has been shown as ruling over households
that walk together, it is shown blooming like a flower when friends resolve
disputes with smiles and laughter and it is shown as a spectator watching
anxiously when countries meet to settle disputes and confer on issues that
divide.