

Chapter 7 Subject – English

Poetry – Animals (by Walt Whitman)

Thinking about the poem (Page 84)

1. In this line here, the poet wants to turn from human into an animal. This turning is symbolic of the poet's detachment from human beings and their nature and his appreciation of the animal kind.
2. Animals do not cry and complain over their conditions. They do not commit sins and therefore do not weep for them. They are also satisfied creatures and have no desire to possess material things. Humans, on the contrary, complain all the time, commit all sorts of sins and are affected with the madness of owning things.
3. Yes, humans kneel to other humans who lived thousands of years ago as it is a cultural tradition to do so.
4. The tokens mentioned in the poem mean the symbol of the true nature of human beings. These tokens are actually tokens of virtue such as contentment, honesty, innocence, kindness, joy, satisfaction and sharing. Humans took to vices such as greed, selfishness, desire to capture everything and other vices. Animals have carried forward the real instincts and characteristics which humans have forgotten.