



Neem Baba

– S.I. Farooqi

From text to thought–

Let's Recall

Fill in the blanks with two adjectives each to describe the following.

1. **leaves:** Bitter, green
2. **branches:** Spreading, woody
3. **bark:** Thick, rough
4. **roots:** Deep, extensive
5. **fruits:** Small, green
6. **flowers:** White, tiny

Pick the best fit.

1. (c) South India.
2. (c) Iranians.
3. (d) Flowing.
4. (b) Body: fingers
5. (d) We should take care of our resources.

REFERENCE TO THE CONTEXT–

A. “Yes, I will. tell me Neem Baba, is there any use of neem for the farmers?”

Yes. If the powder of neem seeds is mixed in water and sprayed on plants and trees, then locusts don't eat them. If it is used in rice fields, where water remains standing, it stops mosquito breeding and helps to increase crop yield. It also saves the crop from termites, which eat roots of the crop, and it also stops breeding of other insects that eat crops.

1. **Who said the above lines to whom?**

Amber said the above lines to Neem Baba (the neem tree).

2. **Which method is the most cost effective in preventing breeding of mosquitoes?**

Putting the powder of neem seeds in stagnant water is the most cost-effective method.

3. **Use the past participle form of the verb 'breed' in a sentence of your own.**

The fish were successfully bred in the new pond.

4. **Write one compound word similar to 'cost-effective'.**

Time-saving (or budget-friendly, labour-intensive, etc.)

B. “Dear Amber, we become well known for what we do. People find us useful and that is why they know us. Scientists call us 'better grace of God', 'nature's gift to man', and 'cleanliness-

imparting tree'. Some even call us 'magic tree' and 'the tree of the twentieth century'."

1. Who is 'we' in the above extract?

'We' refers to neem trees in general.

2. Why is 'we' referred to as 'magic tree'?

It is called a 'magic tree' because every single part of the tree has numerous medicinal and practical uses for humans.

- 'Bitter grace of God'
- 'Nature's gift to man'
- 'Cleanliness-parting tree'
- 'Magic tree'
- 'The tree of the twentieth century'

3. Mention any two names given to 'we' in the above extract.

Famous, renowned, celebrated, popular.

4. Replace the underlined word with its synonym.

Dear Amber, we become well known for what we do.

THINK AND ANSWER-

Answer the following questions briefly.

1. Did you find the story thought-provoking? Why/Why not?

Yes, the story is thought-provoking because it uses a simple conversation to highlight how humans often take natural resources for granted. It encourages readers to think about the vital roles trees and nature play in our lives and the importance of conservation.

2. What are the uses of different parts of a neem tree?

Leaves: Used in medicines, keeping clothes safe from pests, bathing in neem water for skin health.

- Bark: Used in tooth powders and for treating dental problems.
- Fruits/Seeds (Neem powder): Used to prevent mosquito breeding and as a natural pesticide.
- Branches (Twigs): Used as a natural toothbrush.

3. What did Amber learn from her conversation with Neem Baba? Is it relevant in today's time?

Amber learned about the countless benefits of the neem tree—from medicine to pest control—and the importance of respect and care for nature. This is extremely relevant today as we face environmental challenges and need sustainable solutions that nature provides.

4. How does neem tree help the farmers?

Neem helps farmers by acting as a natural, cost-effective pesticide (using neem seed powder). It protects their crops from pests without using harmful chemicals, ensuring a healthy harvest and soil.

Answer the following in 100-120 words.

1. Describe a tree found in your neighbourhood along with its benefits for the humans. (Use figurative language to make it more interesting).

In my neighborhood stands a majestic Banyan tree, an old sentinel watching over the park. Its vast branches, like the strong, welcoming arms of a grandfather, offer a shady sanctuary from the scorching summer sun. This gentle giant is a living community center; children laugh under its leafy umbrella, and elders gather to chat on the sturdy roots that snake across the ground. It is incredibly beneficial. Its dense foliage is a factory of oxygen, a gift of fresh air to our bustling neighborhood. The tree is a hotel for birds and squirrels, offering safe lodging and food. Beyond that, its very presence is calming, a green beacon reminding us of the stability and kindness of nature. It stands as a silent provider, asking nothing in return but appreciation for its cool, protective embrace.

GRAMMAR-

Fill in the blanks with compound words taking clues from the hints given.

1. My grandmother lives in a **wooden house/woodhouse**.
2. The teacher wrote the questions on the **blackboard/whiteboard**.
3. The mother carried the groceries in **paperbags**.
4. I get daily updates from **newspapers**.
5. My sister loves to eat **ice cream** in winters.

LET'S WRITE-

Write a conversation between a tree and a child from another planet who sees a tree for the first time. You may use the hints given below.

Child (Zorp): (Approaches the tree cautiously) Hello! What are you? Your skin is so rough, like ancient stone!

Tree (Neem Baba): (Branches sway gently) Hello, little one. I am a Tree, a provider of life on Earth. My bark keeps me safe and strong.

Zorp: Why are your arms—your branches—so green? On my planet, everything is grey metal!

Tree (Neem Baba): The green helps me make food using sunlight and air. It's how I survive and how I make the air clean for everyone to breathe.

Zorp: Why do those small, noisy creatures—birds—sit on you and live in your hair—your leaves?

Tree (Neem Baba): I am their home, their shelter, and their nursery. I offer them a safe place to rest and raise their young. We must all live together.

Zorp: This is incredible. On my planet, we don't have living homes or green air-factories. We have to make everything ourselves, and the air is stale. Earth is beautiful because of the things like you!

Activity 1: Tree Biography:

To be completed independently by the students.

Activity 2: Nature Promise Pyramid Activity

To be completed independently by the students.