

Thinking about the Poem (Page 15)

Question 1: There are many ideas about how the world will 'end'. Do you think the world will end some day? Have you ever thought what would happen if the sun got so hot that it 'burst', or grew colder and colder?

Answer: There are numerous theories regarding how the world will 'end'. Yes, I do believe that the world will come to an end at some point because, as we all know, everything that starts out has to end. This is also true for the rest of the earth; if the Sun became too hot and burst, all life on Earth would end immediately since the planet could not withstand the level of heat. On the other hand, it would be evident that life would terminate if the Sun got colder and colder. We are aware that all of the planets in the solar system rely heavily on sunlight as a source of energy.

Question 2: For Frost, what do 'fire' and 'ice' stand for? Here are some ideas:

greed	avarice	cruelty	lust
conflict	fury	intolerance	rigidity
insensitivity	coldness	indifference	hatred

Answer: 'Fire' stands for greed, avarice, lust, conflict and fury. 'Ice' stands for cruelty, intolerance, rigidity, insensitivity, coldness, indifference and hatred.

Question 3: What is the rhyme scheme of the poem? How does it help in bringing out the contrasting ideas in the poem?

Answer: The rhyme scheme of the poem is: a, b, a, a, b, c, b, c, b.

This rhyme system aids in bringing out the poem's two opposing themes of "fire" and "ice." Both fire and ice are mentioned by the poet Robert Frost as potential outcomes for the planet Earth. He discusses how desire is represented by "fire" and might perhaps bring the world to an end. The poet also uses the word "ice" to suggest that the world would end because of people's potential coldness and indifference toward one another. The poet claims in the poem's second verse that there is enough hatred in the world and that even its destruction by ice would be sufficient and sufficient to put an end to it.