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# Summary of My Dear Soldiers

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"My Dear Soldiers" is a heartfelt poem by A.P.J. Abdul Kalam that pays tribute to the brave soldiers who protect the borders of the nation. The poem highlights the selfless dedication and sacrifices made by these defenders who remain vigilant through all seasons and conditions. It acknowledges their youth given to the service of the country and expresses deep respect and prayers for their safety and well-being.

## Key Elements

- **Theme:** Patriotism, sacrifice, and respect for soldiers.
- **Tone:** Reverent and grateful.
- **Imagery:** Descriptions of harsh weather and terrains symbolize the challenges faced by soldiers.

## Textual Evidence

Lines such as "When we are all asleep / You still hold on to your deed" emphasize the soldiers' constant vigilance. The phrase "Prime of your youth given to the nation" highlights their sacrifice.

## Practice Set

### Level 1 – Easy

- Who are the "great sons" mentioned in the poem?
- What does the poem say about the soldiers' youth?

### Level 2 – Moderate

- Explain how the poem describes the soldiers' duty during different weather conditions.
- What feelings does the poet express towards the soldiers?

### Level 3 – Challenging

- Analyze the use of imagery in the poem and how it contributes to the theme of sacrifice.
- Discuss the significance of the line "Treading the lonely expanses as yogis" in the context of the poem.

### Answer Key

- The "great sons" are the soldiers who defend the borders.
- The poem states that soldiers give the prime of their youth to the nation.
- The poem describes soldiers guarding in windy, snowy, and scorching sun conditions, showing their dedication.
- The poet expresses respect, gratitude, and prayers for the soldiers' safety.
- Imagery of harsh weather and terrains highlights the hardships and sacrifices of soldiers.
- The line compares soldiers' solitary vigilance to yogis' meditation, emphasizing discipline and dedication.

### Quick Reference

- Theme: Patriotism and sacrifice
- Poet: A.P.J. Abdul Kalam
- Key lines: "When we are all asleep / You still hold on to your deed"

### Glossary

- **Defenders:** Those who protect.
- **Deed:** An action or achievement.

- **Sweltering:** Uncomfortably hot.
- **Yogis:** Practitioners of yoga, symbolizing discipline and solitude.

## Character Sketch of the Soldiers

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The soldiers depicted in the poem are portrayed as brave, selfless, and dedicated individuals who protect the nation tirelessly. They endure harsh weather conditions and remain alert even when others sleep. Their youth is sacrificed for the safety and security of the country. They are disciplined like yogis, showing patience and perseverance in their duty.

### Key Traits

- **Bravery:** Facing dangers at borders.
- **Selflessness:** Putting nation above personal comfort.
- **Discipline:** Maintaining vigilance and order.
- **Endurance:** Withstanding difficult weather and terrain.

### Textual Evidence

"You still hold on to your deed" and "Treading the lonely expanses as yogis" illustrate their commitment and discipline.

### Practice Set

#### Level 1 – Easy

- List two qualities of the soldiers mentioned in the poem.

#### Level 2 – Moderate

- How does the poem show the soldiers' endurance?

### Level 3 – Challenging

- Explain the comparison of soldiers to yogis and its significance.

### Answer Key

- Qualities: bravery and selflessness.
- The poem mentions soldiers guarding in windy, snowy, and hot conditions, showing endurance.
- Comparing soldiers to yogis highlights their discipline, solitude, and dedication in guarding the nation.

### Quick Reference

- Brave, selfless, disciplined, enduring
- Compared to yogis for their solitary vigilance

### Glossary

- **Endurance:** The ability to withstand hardship.
- **Discipline:** Training to obey rules and maintain order.

## Themes in My Dear Soldiers

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The poem explores several important themes related to the soldiers and their role in the nation.

## Main Themes

- **Patriotism:** Love and devotion to the country.
- **Sacrifice:** Giving up personal comfort and youth for the nation.
- **Duty and Vigilance:** Constant watchfulness to protect the borders.
- **Respect and Gratitude:** Honoring the soldiers' efforts and praying for their safety.

## Practice Set

### Level 1 – Easy

- What is the main theme of the poem?

### Level 2 – Moderate

- Explain how sacrifice is portrayed in the poem.

### Level 3 – Challenging

- Discuss the theme of vigilance and its importance as shown in the poem.

## Answer Key

- The main theme is patriotism and respect for soldiers.
- Sacrifice is shown by soldiers giving their youth and enduring hardships.
- Vigilance is important as soldiers guard the nation even when others sleep, ensuring safety.

## Quick Reference

- Patriotism, sacrifice, duty, respect

## Glossary

- **Vigilance:** Keeping careful watch for possible danger.
- **Patriotism:** Love for one's country.

## Literary Devices in My Dear Soldiers

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The poem uses several literary devices to convey its message effectively.

### Key Devices

- **Imagery:** Vivid descriptions of weather and terrain create mental pictures, e.g., "Windy season or snowy days".
- **Personification:** "Wind chimes of my land vibrate your feat" gives human qualities to wind chimes.
- **Simile:** Comparing soldiers to yogis to emphasize discipline.
- **Alliteration:** Repetition of consonant sounds, e.g., "Prime of your youth given to the nation".

### Examples from Text

"Treading the lonely expanses as yogis" is a simile showing the soldiers' solitary and disciplined nature.

### Practice Set

Level 1 – Easy

- Identify one simile used in the poem.

## Level 2 – Moderate

- Explain the effect of imagery in the poem.

## Level 3 – Challenging

- Discuss how personification enhances the poem's emotional appeal.

## Answer Key

- Simile: "Treading the lonely expanses as yogis".
- Imagery helps readers visualize the harsh conditions soldiers face, increasing appreciation.
- Personification of wind chimes vibrating the soldiers' feet creates a sense of honor and celebration.

## Quick Reference

- Imagery, personification, simile, alliteration

## Glossary

- **Imagery:** Descriptive language that appeals to the senses.
- **Personification:** Giving human traits to non-human things.
- **Simile:** A comparison using "like" or "as".
- **Alliteration:** Repetition of initial consonant sounds.