

## NCERT Solutions for Class 11

### English

#### Chapter 03- The Laburnum Top

##### 1. What laburnum is called in your language.

**Ans:** In my language, which is Hindi, the laburnum is called Amaltaas. It is a tree characterised by medium height, drooping branches, bright yellow flowers and poisonous seeds.

##### 2. Which local bird is like the goldfinch.

**Ans:** The local i.e., Indian bird with a likeness to goldfinch is a parakeet named 'Indian Lutino Ringneck'.

#### Think It Out

##### 1. What do you notice about the beginning and the ending of the poem?

**Ans:** As the poem begins, I notice that the poet had described the laburnum tree on an afternoon of September bathed in yellow light. Only a few leaves of the tree had turned golden and all the seeds had fallen. The tree was portrayed as calm and silent. At the end of the poem, I notice that when the goldfinch left to the unknown after making its final whistle-chirping sounds the tree remained empty and still.

##### 2. To what is the bird's movement compared? What is the basis for the comparison?

**Ans:** The bird's movement in the poem was compared to that of a lizard.

Lizards when moving on the wall make watchful movements towards their prey and suddenly attach it. According to the poet, the bird's movements were

vigilant and unexpected as it arrived at the laburnum tree just like a lizard.

**3. Why is the image of the engine evoked by the poet?**

**Ans:** The little goldfinch ensures that sustenance is provided to its family so the future generation remains alive. Thus, the bird's behaviour of bringing food to its family has evoked the image of an engine in the poet's mind which similarly provides energy to a machine to keep it running.

**4. What do you like most about the poem?**

**Ans:** I like the simple yet beautiful description of the relationship between the tree and bird given in the poem. I like the way the poet has described a very mundane routine of a bird and how it was pouring life in the silent and still laburnum tree.

**5. What does the phrase "her barred face identity mask" mean?**

**Ans:** The phrase "her barred face identity mask" has referred to the appearance of the goldfinch bird. The bird's body is yellow while its face has stripes. Though the bird can hide its body in the yellow flowers of the laburnum tree, its striped face can only identify its presence on the tree.