

Short Questions (2 marks) & Their Answers:-

① Give definition and purpose of 'prologue'

Prologue is a piece of writing or a speech that introduces a play, or a poem. Sometimes, it is an introductory poem of a series of poems delivering identical phenomena.

A prologue is used mainly for giving background information about the story. It also includes extra information that advances the plot. All the information given by the prologue produces author's purpose of writing and his attacks to unreasonable thinkings and practices.

② What does the "prologue" by Anne Bradstreet mean?

Anne Bradstreet's poem prologue portrays the struggles of being a woman in a Puritan society and men-led unreasonable practice especially regarding women's accomplishment in the world of writing-creation. Bradstreet lived in a time when women were not meant to keep quiet and tend to domestic works. She wrote prologue to express her opinion on woman's voice in her society.

③ Who was Dartas? By whom was he influenced and to whom he influenced? Why did Bradstreet refer to him?

Guillaume de Salluste Du Bartas (1544-1550) was a French protestant poet who wrote an epic poem on Christian history called La Semaine: ou, creation du monde (1578).

He was influenced in writing art and idealism by the ideas of John Calvin.

His epic La Semaine influenced not just Bradstreet but also Milton as Puritan poet in England and also across the Atlantic.

For enacting both humility and ambition Bradstreet admirably referred to de Du Bartas.

4) The theme of Prologue:

Bradstreet's prologue centres on the theme of humility. Devout Puritans like Bradstreet believed deeply in humility; to them all people (men or women or children) should humble themselves and avoid such things which might make them proud. The prologue is also a poem all about creation of poetry, especially by accomplished women-section. And it focuses on the trials of a female poet trying to make her voice heard in the world.

"Now can I, like that fluent sweet-tongued Greek
About whom was it said, why was he referred
here?"

It is said about Demosthenes (384 - 322 B.C.) a notable Greek orator particularly well known for his use of rhetoric.

Demosthenes a speech impediment. But by exercising he gladly overcame his resisting pain of stammering. Bradstreet posited that physical defects as less challenging than the supposed defects of mental disability. So, a woman with mental disability can't overcome males' criticism on women's accomplishment as a poet or any figure of literature.