

12. Read the following poem and answer the questions that follow it.

Song of a Common Lover

Don't love me my sweet
Like your shadow
For shadows fade at evening
And I want to keep you
right up cock crow,
nor like pepper
which makes the belly hot
for then I couldn't take you
when I'm hungry;
nor like a pillow
for we'd be together in the hours of sleep
but scarcely meet by day;
nor like rice
for once swallowed you think no more of it,
nor like soft speeches
for they quickly vanish,
nor like honey,
sweet indeed but too common.
Love me like a beautiful dream,
Your life in the night
my hope in the day;
like a piece of money
even with me on earth,
and for the great journey
a faithful comrade,
like a calabash,
intact, for drawing water,
in pieces, bridges for my guitar

Questions:

- (a) Why doesn't the Common Lover like to be loved like a shadow?
- (b) What does pepper symbolize in the poem?
- (c) The Common Lover prefers to be loved like a beautiful dream.
What are the two (2) points that signify beautiful dream?
- (d) What is the mood of the poet?
- (e) What is the theme of the poem?