Small pain in my chest

Read the line given below and answer the questions that follow:

The soldier boy was sitting calmly underneath that tree.
As I approached it, I could see him beckoning to me.
The battle had been long and hard and lasted through the night
And scores of figures on the ground lay still by morning’s light.
“I wonder if you’d help me, sir”, he smiled as best he could.
“A sip of water on the morn would surely do me good.

1. Who was the ‘soldier boy’? Why was he mentioned as a boy?
2. Was the narrator drawn towards him? Why? In which way did he call the narrator?
3. What kind of battle it had been in which he participated?
4. What was the result of that hard battle?
5. What did he ask for? What kind of smile did he give? Why that kind of simile?

Read the lines given below and answer the questions that follow:

“We fought all day and fought all night with scarcely any rest –
A sip of water for I have a small pain in my chest.”
As I looked at him, I could see the large stain on hid shirt
All reddish –brown from his warm blood mixed in with Asian dirt.
“Not much”, said he. “I count myself more lucky than the rest.
They’re all gone while I just have a small pain in my chest.”

1. Who was the speaker? Who was he talking to?
2. Had he been fighting? How long? What was the result?
3. Who was in need of help? What did he want? What was the urgency?
4. Who is referred to as ‘I’? What did ‘I’ observe?
5. The speaker thought he was luckier than the rest. Was he right to say so?

Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

“Must be fatigue”, he weakly smiled. “I must be getting old.
I see the sun is shining bright and yet I’m feeling cold.
We climbed the hill, two hundred strong, but as we cleared the crest,
The night exploded and I felt this small pain in my chest.
a) What reasons does the soldier give for his weakness?
b) Why is he feeling cold even in the bright sunshine?
c) Who climbed the hill?
d) What happened then?
Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow (16 marks)

“I looked around to get some aid – the only things I found
Were big, deep _____ in the earth – bodies on the ground.
I kept on firing at them, sir. I tried to do my best,
But finally sat down with this small pain in my chest.”

a. Who is speaking these lines, to whom and when?
b. Why did the man need some aid? Give another word for ‘aid’.
c. Which two things did the man find there? What, do you think, was the reason for all these?
d. What excuse did the man give for sitting down? What else had he done?
e. How do you feel for the man? Elaborate.

Read the extract given below and answer the question that follows:

“What would my wife be thinking of her man so strong & grown?
If she could see me sitting here, too weak to stand alone?
Could my mother have imagines, as he held me to her breast?
That I’d be sitting HERE one day with this pain in my chest?

a. What troubles the soldier and why?
b. What does he think about his mother?
c. What do we come to know about the personal life of the soldier in these lines?
d. What does the narrator want to convey through the character of the soldier?
e. Do you think the title is appropriate?

Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

“I’m grateful, sir,” he whispered, as I handed my canteen
And smiled a smile that was, I think, the brightest that I’ve seen.
“Seems silly that a man my size so full of _____ and _____.
Could find himself defeated by a small pain in my chest
Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

“Can it be getting dark so soon?”
He winced up at the sun.
“It’s growing dim and I thought that the day had just begun. I think, before, I travel on, I’ll get a little rest…..
And, quietly, the boy died from that small pain in his chest.

a. What does “getting dark” signify?
b. How does the soldier react to this darkness?
c. Where is the soldier going to travel?
d. What is the ‘little rest’ the soldier is talking about?
e. What happened to the boy?

Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

I don’t recall what happened then. I think I must have cried;
I put my arms around him and pulled him to my side
And, as I held him to me, I could feel our wounds were pressed
The large one in my heart against the small one in his chest.

a. Who is ‘I’? What does ‘I’ not recall? What does ‘recall’ mean?
b. How does ‘I’ show his emotions? Why, do you think, does he do that?
c. Explain the last line of the extract. What has the man said in the previous extract?
d. What does ‘I’ do, as given in this extract?
e. What is your opinion about war? Write in some detail.

Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow

Psalm of life
Life is real! Life is earnest!
And the grave is not its goal;
Dust thou art, to dust thou returnest,
Was not spoken of the soul.

1. Life is real. Is it a rejection of some argument earlier in the context?
2. If the grave is no the goal of life, what is its goal?
3. “Dust thou art, to dust returnest.” Can you think of the source of the similar thought in poetry?
4. Explain what returns to the dust and what doesn’t return to the dust. What happens to the survivor? Is it hinted at in this poem?
5. How can we say that man is mortal and immortal at the same time? How?

Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow

Not enjoyment, and not sorrow,
Is our destined end or way;
But to act, that each tomorrow
Find us farther than today.

1. What is the role of enjoyment and sorrow in life?
2. What does the poet say about human destiny?
3. How can one measure one’s progress in life?
4. How can each tomorrow find us farther than today? What is the implication?
5. Does the poet stress the urgency of making the text of time? What does he say about it later in the context?

Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow

Art is long, and Time is fleeting,
And our hearts, though stout and brave,
Still, like muffled drums, are beating
Funeral marches to the grave.

1. How do you explain ’Art is long’? What does art stand for?
2. What is the characteristic of time? how can we find a balance between art and time?
3. In what sense are our hearts stout and brave?
4. What comparison does the poet use to say that we are always moving towards death?
5. What can we do in such a situation?

Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow

In the world’s broad field of battle
In the bivouac of life,
Be not like drumb, driven cattle!
Be a hero in the strife!

1. How is the world a broad field of battle?
2. How do you explain the expression ‘bivouac of life? What role can one play in the bivouac?
3. How can men be like dumb – driven cattle? Is it not convenient to swim with the current?
4. How can one be a hero in the strife?
5. Is there a line in the poem that shows the way to become a hero?

Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow

Trust no future, howe’er pleasant!
Let the dead past bury its dead;
Act, - act in the living present!
Heart within, and God o’erhead!

1. What are the three dimensions of time as referred to in the lines?
2. The poet cautions against trusting future. Why does he say so?
3. How should we look upon past? Why should we treat it the way the poet suggests?
4. In what sense is present living? What is its status in comparison with past and future?
5. Explain how a two – fold faith is necessary to achieve success in life. Why so?

Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow

Lives of great men all remind us
We can make our lives sublime.
And, departing, leave behind us
Footprints on the sands of time;

a) What message do we receive from ‘Lives of great men’?
b) What do the great men leave behind them? With what are those compared? How appropriate is the comparison?

c) Write the meanings of ‘sublime’ and ‘departing’. Identify and explain the figure of speech in the last line.

d) In what context is the word ‘footprints’ carried over to the next verse? Bring out the imagery clearly.

e) The poet uses (i) a word for the sea, (ii) two words for a brother/sailor and (iii) a phrase meaning encourage/inspire in the next verse. Quote all of them.

**Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow**

Let us, then, be up and doing,
With a heart for any fate;
Still achieving, still pursuing,
Learn to labour and to wait.

a) Write the advice of the poet as given in this extract

b) Explain the phrases: up and doing, still achieving, still pursuing.

c) What do we wait for? Give reasons.

d) In what way is the poem ‘A Psalm of Life’?

e) What lessons in positivism do you learn from this poem?

**The Professor –Poem**

**Read the lines given below and answer the questions that follow**

Remember me? I am Professor Sheth.
Once I taught you geography. Now
I am retired, though my health is good.
My wife died so many years back.
By God’s grace, all my children are
Well settled in life.

1. Who is Professor Sheth? Where is he? Who is he talking to
2. Do you see anything odd in the speaker introducing himself
3. What is his present status?
4. Does he talk about his health? Does he talk of specific detail about his health in the poem?
5. “By God’s grace, all my children are well settled in life.” What does his reference to God indicate? What does he say about his children?

Read the lines given below and answer the questions that follow:

One is Sales Manager,
One is Bank Manager,
Both have cars.
Other also doing well, though not so well.
Every family must have black sheep.
Sarala and Tarala are married.

1. Identify the poem and name the poet. Who is the speaker? Who is he talking to?
2. Who are the persons holding managerial posts? What is their relevance in this speech?
3. Why does the speaker refer to cars?
4. Who are the black sheep referred to?
5. What does the speaker say about Sarala and Tarala? How are they related to the speaker?

Read the lines given below and answer the questions that follow:

You were so thin, like stick,
Now you are man of weight and consequence. That is good joke.
If you are coming again this side by chance,
Visit please my humble residence also.
I am living just on opposite house’s backside.

1. Who had been thin like stick? Who makes this remark? What is the relevance of this remark?
2. Who can be called a ‘man of weight and consequence’? What is the meaning intended in the remark here.? What is the joke?
3. Comment on the professor’s invitation to his former student is it casual or serious? How can you say so?
4. Why does the professor call his house as his’ humble residence’. Does he sound deferential in this?
5. The professor uses the word ‘backside’ while explaining the location of his house. Is the use of word ‘backside’ correct here? Why not? Do you know the right meaning of the word?

**Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:**

This is because of sound habits in youth.
How is your health keeping?
Nicely? I am happy for that.
This year I am ____________.
And hope to score a ____________.

a) In what context is the first line of the extract used? Give a few examples of ‘sound habits’.
b) Which three questions has the speaker already asked?
c) How old is the speaker now? How long does he want to live? What do you think of such a wish?
d) Which four words/phrases does the speaker go on to use about the person spoken to?
e) On what note does the monologue end? What do you think of the speaker?

**Read the lines given below and answer the questions that follow**

Life is real ! Life is earnest !
And the grave is not its goal;
Dust thou art, to dust thou returnest,
Was not spoken of the soul.

1. Life is a real. Is it a rejection of some argument earlier in the context?
2. If the grave is not the goal of life, what is its goal?
3. “Dust thou art, to dust returnest.” Can you think of the source of a similar thought in poetry?
4. Explain what returns to the survivor? Is it hinted at in this poem?
5. How can we say that man is mortal and immortal at the same time? How?
2. Read the lines given below and answer the questions that follow-

Not enjoyment, and not sorrow,
Is our destined end or way;
But to act, that each tomorrow
Find us farther than today.

1. What is the role of enjoyment and sorrow in life?
2. What does the poet say about human destiny?
3. How can one measure one’s progress in life?
4. How can each tomorrow find us farther than today? What is the implication?
5. Does the poet stress the urgency of making the test of time? What does he say about it later in the context?

3. Read the lines given below and answer the questions that follow-

In the world’s broad field of battle,
In the bivouac of life,
Be not like dumb, driven cattle!
Be a hero in the strife!

1. How is world a broad field of battle?
2. How do you explain the expression ‘bivouac of life’? What role can one play in the bivouac?
3. How can men be like dumb—driven cattle? Is it not convenient to swim with the current?
4. Is there a line in the poem that shows the way to become a hero?

Lives of great men all remind us
We can make our lives sublime.
And, departing, leave behind us
Footprints on the sands of time;

1. What message do we receive from ‘lives of great men’?
2. What do the great men leave behind them? With what are those compared? How appropriate is the comparison?
3. Write the meanings of sublime and departing. Identify and explain the figure of speech in the last line.
Let us, then, be up and doing,
With a heart of any fate;
Still achieving, still pursuing,
Learn to labour and to wait.

1. Write the advice of the poet as given in this extract.
2. Explain the phrases: up and doing, still achieving, still pursuing.
3. What should we wait for? Give reasons.
4. In what way is the poem ‘A Psalm of Life’?
5. What lessons in positivism do you learn from this poem?