Section - 3 Trains

1. Why does the poet call the train 'tedious'?

The poet calls the train 'tedious' because of the long journeys it makes every day. In the dark of the night the trains move like huge elephants, in the hot afternoons when people sleep, they continue their journey. They go on through hills, bridges, and streams, never stopping for a little while. Their restless journey continues all day and night.

2. In the middle of the night, what does the train remind the poet of and why?

In the middle of the night the train reminds the poet of a huge crawling serpent; beneath the flickering light of the moon, the train appears just like a huge serpent. Its snaking movement along the tracks is similar to the slithering of a snake in the darkness.

3. The poet ends with a question. Why do you think question troubles or puzzles the poet?

The poem ends with an obvious question which arises in the mind of the poet. He asks the simple question: Where do the trains go at the end of their restless journeys? This question puzzles the poet because each and every one of us at the end of each day retire to our homes and we go to sleep. But the trains are always moving; they cross bridges, streams, hills and plains—it seems to the poet that their journey is never going to end. It surprises him that the trains never stop, so he wonders whether the trains stop and rest at all. Thus, he ends the poem with this question.