**2. DIGGING**

**….Seamus Heaney**

Q. **what attitude or feeling does the speaker have towards the traditional work of  Digging?**

Seamus Heaney is a famous poet of Ireland. His poem ‘Digging’ is taken from his collection of poems “Death of a Naturalist”.  In this poem all the three generations of the speaker are involved in digging. His grandfather digs turf, his father digs up potatoes and he is digging up his memories with a pen. The speaker regrets that he is no longer able to follow his ancestors’ occupation but wants to become a writer.

The speaker begins writing the poem at his desk near the window. His hand doesn’t hold the pen, but the pen rests in his hand. Suddenly he gets disturbed by the rasping sound of the spade from outside. It makes him to recollect the memories of his father and grandfather. His father wears a coarse boot and working in a potato field for twenty years when the speaker was a young boy. The memory stretches even further back to his grandfather who digs turf for peat. The peat can be turned into great fuel and fertilizer.

              The speaker doesn’t have the proper tool for digging like his father or grandfather. He is something different in attitude. While his father and grandfather dig with spades, the speaker plans to dig with his pen. They would dig down into earth, perhaps the speaker wants to dig down into his past to give proper recognition to his ancestors. Finally the poet carries on the traditional work of digging in a different way as writer.