

CLASS – XI

LAST DATE OF SUBMISSION-01--05-2017

SUBJECT-ENGLISH ASSIGNMENT -2

My Mother at sixty six: question bank with answers

Summary

The poet is on her way to the airport to cochin with her old mother sitting beside her, as she looks at her mother's pale face, she is struck with the horror and pain of losing her. The mother with the dozing face and open mouth is compared to a corpse. The poet is pained and shifts her attention outside the car in order to drive out the negative feelings. The scene outside the window is of growing life and energy. The rapidly sprinting trees alongside the merrily playing children symbolize youth and vitality. The poet here is reminded of her own childhood when her mother had been young whereas now she is encircled with the fear of losing her and that has made her insecure. As she bids goodbye to her mother at the airport, the image of the old, wan, worn out mother in the twilight of years strikes her again but keeping a brave front she hides her tears and smile.

Theme

The poem revolves around the theme of advancing age and the fear that adheres to its loss and separation. It is a sentimental account of the mother's approaching end through the eyes of the daughter. The seemingly short poem touches upon the theme of the filial bond between the mother and daughter smeared in the backdrop of nostalgia and fear. Nostalgia of the past (the time spent with the mother) and fear of the future without her.

Poetic device

It is a short poem, without a full stop, the poem is like a long sentence, over flowing thought process. The poet uses the device of comparison and contrast, simile and repetition. Although there is no rhyming scheme in the poem yet its lyrical quality cannot be missed.

QUESTIONS TO BE DONE IN NOTEBOOK

MY MOTHER AT SIXTY SIX

-----Kamala Das

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| 1) How does Kamala Das try to put away the thoughts of her ageing mother? | 2 |
| 2) Why are the young trees described as sprinting? | 2 |
| 3) What are the poet's feelings at the airport? How did she hide them? | 2 |
| 4) 'Driving from my parents /home to Cochin last Friday/ morning, I saw my mother , beside me, doze, open mouthed, her face ashen like that/ of a corpse and realized with pain/ that she was as old as she looked.....' | |
| a. What was the poet driving to? | 1 |
| b. Why was the mother's face looking like that of a corpse? | 1 |

- c. What did the poet notice about her mother? 1
- 5) 'I saw my mother/ beside me, / doze, open mouthed, her face/ ashen like that/
of a corpse and realized with/ pain/ that she was as old as she/ looked but soon/ put that
thought away.
- a. What worried the poet when she looked at her mother? 1
- b. Why was there pain in her realization? 1
- c. What did she put that thought away? 1
- d. Identify the figure of speech used in these lines 1
- 6) ' and/ looked out at young/ trees sprinting, the merry children spilling/out of their home,
but after the airport's / security check, standing a few yards/ away, I looked again at her , wan
,pale/ as a late winter's moon and felt that old / familiar ache,'
- a. How can the trees sprint? 1
- b. Why did the poet look at her mother again? 1
- c. What did she observe? 1
- d. Identify the figure of speech used in these lines. 1