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Class 10 English (First Flight) Notes

The Ball Poem



Key Notes and Important Questions with Answers

Poem : The Ball Poem

Type -I Comprehension Passage

Solved Passage

No use to say 'O there are other balls'
An ultimate shaking grief fixes the boy
As he stands rigid, trembling, staring down

All his young days into the harbour where
His ball went.

- (a) What does "No use to say, 'O there are other balls' imply?
- (b) What is the boy's grief?
- (c) What effect does it have on the boy?
- (d) Explain – "All his young days"

Answers

- (a) It implies that the loss of his ball cannot console him even if he gets another ball.
- (c) The boy stands still, trembling while staring at his ball.
- (d) "All his young days" means all the memories of the boy's childhood days.

Stanzas for Practice (Unsolved)

Passage-1 Unsolved

1. He senses his first responsibility

In a world of possessions. People will take balls, Balls will be lost
always, little boy.

And no one buys a ball back. Money is external.

- (a) Do you think that the boy had lost anything earlier. Pick out the phrase that tells you this.
- (b) What does the word 'Balls' signify?
- (c) What does the phrase – 'world of possessions' signify?
- (d) Explain – "Money is external".

Passage – 2

He is learning well behind his desperate eyes,

The epistemology of loss, how to stand up Knowing what everyman
must one day know

And must know many days, how to stand up.

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- (a) Why are the boy's eyes desperate?
 - (b) What is he learning?
 - (c) What should every man know?
 - (d) Explain – 'epistemology of loss'.

Passage – 3

I would not intrude on him

A dime, another ball is worthless.

- (a) Who does 'him' refer to?
- (b) What has happened to the ball?
- (c) What will the author not do?
- (d) What does the poet want the boy to learn?

Type-II Short Answer Questions

Solved

1. What is the importance of a ball in the boy's life?

Ans. The ball is very important for the boy. It is linked to his childhood memories. That is why he is profoundly affected by its loss.

Unsolved Questions

1. How does the boy lose his ball?
2. How does this loss affect him?
3. Does the poet, who is watching all this, help the boy with another ball? Why?
4. What does John Berryman want to convey through this poem?

