



HOLY FAITH PRESENTATION SCHOOL

RAWALPORA SRINAGAR KASHMIR

(CLASS 9th - ENGLISH)

Poem-5

I Cannot Remember My Mother

(Rabindranath Tagore)

Q1: What is the poet doing when he remembers his mother?

Ans. The poet is playing with his playthings when he remembers his mother.

Q2: In what way does the poet feel the presence of his mother?

Ans. The poet feels the presence of his mother in almost everything that he does. When he is playing with his playthings, he feels a tune hovering over them. To him, it is the tune of his mother's lullaby. When the smell of shuli flowers floats in the air, he is reminded of his mother going to a temple in the morning. When he looks outside through his bedroom window, he feels the silent gaze of his mother on his face. He feels her presence in blue sky also.

Q3: What does the poet hear when he is at play?

Ans. When the poet is at play he hears a tune hovering over playthings. It seems to him the tune of his mother's lullaby.

Q4: What word do we use for the cradle song?

Ans. The word "Lullaby" is used for the cradle song.

Q5: Is the poet's mother dead or alive? How do you come to know about it?

Ans. The poet's mother is dead. The poet does not remember anything about her. It shows that the mother had died when the poet was only a little child.

Q6: What sights and smell remind the poet of his mother?

Ans. Almost every sight and smell reminds the poet of his mother. When the smell of shuli flowers floats in the air, he is reminded of his mother going to the temple in the morning. When he looks outside through his bedroom window, he feels the silent gaze of his mother on his face. He feels her presence in the sky also.

Q7: What are the feelings that this poem arouses in you?

Ans. The poem arouses feelings of pity for the poet. He lost his mother when he was a little child. He does not remember anything about her. Yet he feels her presence in everything about him.

Q8: Pick out the visual and aural images which appeal to our senses directly?

Ans. Visual images: Morning service in temple, a boy standing at the bedroom window, Mother's gaze on the face of a child.

Aural images: The tune hovering over his play things.



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Q9: The poem does not have a rhyme scheme or a fixed length for each line. Did you enjoy the poem? If yes, why?

Ans. Yes, we enjoy the poem because the poem charms by virtue of its music. It sweeps the reader with its effortlessness and word pictures. It is a highly imaginative piece which is the hallmark of all good poetry.

Summary of the poem

The poem "I cannot remember my mother" is written by Rabindranath Tagore. In this poem, the poet says that he cannot recollect anything about his mother. His mother died in his early childhood. At the time of her death, the poet was too young to know anything about her. He does not know even how she looked like. He recollects his mother only when a tune falls over his ears. Sometimes, when he is playing with his toys, he senses a tune hovering over them. It is the tune of his mother's song which she used to hum while rocking his cradle.

Some times in the early autumn morning, the poet can smell the sweet fragrance of shiuli flowers. This fragrance reminds poet of his mother who used to go the temple in the morning.

Whenever the poet sits at the window of his bedroom and looks at the distant blue sky, he recollects his mother. He remembers how his mother used to bend over him and gaze at him silently. At that time, he feels as if his mother is still looking at him above.

Central Idea of the Poem

The poet had lost his mother in his early childhood. He remembers nothing about his mother. At the time of her death, he was too young to know anything about his mother. He had not got worldly, senses then. He does not remember how she looked like. However, he has a faint recollection of her. A few things remind him of his mother.



Old Man at the Bridge

Q1: Why were the old man's clothes dusty? Why did he not cross the bridge?

Ans. The old man's clothes were dusty because he had come walking twelve kilometers on foot. He did not cross the bridge because he was too tired to cross the bridge.

Q2: Why did the old man leave his carols? Why did the old man want to go Barcelona?

Ans. He was told that there was going to be artillery fire, and was asked by an army captain to leave the place.

The soldier had told the old man that the army trucks were going towards Barcelona. Since the old man had no other place to go to, he thought of going to Barcelona himself.

Q3: "Oh" I said, not quite understanding What was it about the old man's statement : "I was taking care of animals," that the narrator did not understand?

Ans. The old man did not look like a shepherd or a herdsman. So the narrator could not understand what animals the old man could be taking care of.

Q4: Where did the narrator expect the approaching battle to take place?

Ans. The narrator expected the approaching battle to take place at some distance across the bridge.

Q5: It's better not to think about the others'. What does the old man by 'the others' ? Why does he say so?

Ans. By 'the others', the old man means his two goats and four pairs of pigeons. He is certain that his cat will take care of itself, but he is worried about 'the others'. That is why he says, "it's better not to think about the others."

Q6: Did the old man look upon his animals as his family? What made him worried about them? What did the old man fear would harm his animals?

Ans. Yes, the old man looked upon his animals as his family. He had to leave them alone and did not know what would happen to them. He feared that the artillery fire would harm them.

Q7: The old man was a victim of the war, but he had no wish to play a part in it. How do you come to know of this from the story?

Ans. The old man does not say a word about war. He says he had no politics. It does not matter to him which side wins or loses. His only concern seems to be his animals. To me, the old man seems to be a bit unhinged.



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Q8: Wars have a an adverse effect on our lives. How does the story bring out this truth?

Ans. Wars certainly have an adverse effect on our lives. The whole town of san Carlos had to be evacuated. People had to leave their homes and become refugees. The poor old man of the story had to walk twelve kilometers on foot. He had leave his animals which he considered to be his family.

Writing work:

Imagine yourself with a gold coin in your belly. How would you talk to doctor? Hemingway's story involves dialogue most prominently. On the pattern of the story, construct your dialogue with the doctor.

Myself = good morning, doctor,

Doctor = good morning, Yes, what is your problem.

Myself = Indeed, a strange problem. I've a gold coin in my belly.

Doctor = A gold coin in your belly! How did it get there?

Myself = In fact, it was a gift from my uncle. Just in fun, I tossed it up and tried to

Catch it in my mouth. I failed in the first two attempts. But at the third attempt, the coin went right into my throat, and then deeper and deeper into food – pipe. I would feel it all the way down there. And now I feel, it is resting somewhere in my belly. I feel scared.

Doctor = Nothing to worry much. We'll give you a strong Purgative (Purgative =

Laxative = A substance which makes you excrete the contents of your bowels) and the coin will come out with your stools. I don't think there will be any need of surgery.

Myself = thank you, doctor. Please do as you think proper.

Play-2

If I Were You

Q1: "At last a sympathetic audience."

i. **Who says this?**

Ans. Gerrard says this.

ii. **Why does he say it?**

Ans. He says this to win the confidence of the intruder.

Is he sarcastic or serious?

Ans. He is sarcastic.

Q2: why does the intruder choose Gerrard as the man whose identity he wants to take on?

Ans. The intruder is a criminal. He had killed a cop. The police is after him. He can be hanged if he is caught. He sees that Gerrard looks quite like him. So he decides to kill him. He can then live as Gerrard and never be caught.



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Q3: "I said it with bullets."

i. Who says this?

Ans. Gerrard says this.

ii. What does it mean?

Ans. It means that Gerrard had killed someone.

iii. Is it the truth? What is the speaker's reason for saying this?

Ans. No, this is not the truth. He says this only to befool the intruder. He wants to convince him that he, too, is a criminal like him.

Q4: What is Gerrard's profession? Quote the parts of the play that support your answer.

Ans. His profession is related with the theatre. We know this when he says on phone to the man on the other side, "I can't let you have the props in time for rehearsal."

Q5: You'll soon stop being smart?

1. Who says this?

Ans. The Intruder says this to Gerrard.

2. Who does the speaker say it?

Ans. He says this because Gerrard seems to have no fear of the intruder.

3. What, according to the speaker, will stop Gerrard from being smart?

Ans. He says that he will make Gerrard crawl. He also threatens to hit him with his gun.

Q6: "They can't hang me twice".

1. Who says this ?

Ans. The intruder says this to Gerrard.

2. Why does speaker say it?

Ans. The intruder has already killed a cop. He can be hanged for it. Now he has planned to kill Gerrard also. That is why he says that he can't be hanged twice if he is caught.

Q7: "A mystery I propose to explain. " What is the mystery the speaker proposes to explain?

Ans. He wants to tell the intruder that he, too, has killed a man and the police is after him.

Q8: "this is your big surprise."

i. Where has this been said in the play?

Ans. It has been said when the intruder prepares to shoot Gerrard.

ii. What is the surprise?

Ans. Gerrard tells the intruder that he himself has killed a man and the police is after him. He says that one of his men has been caught and the police is expected there any moment.



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Writing Work:

Q9: Which of the words below describe Gerrard and which describe the intruder? Smart humorous clever beautiful cool confident flashy witty Nonchalant.

Write a paragraph about Gerrard and the Intruder to show what qualities they have.

Ans. Gerrard : smart, humorous, clever, beautiful, cool, confident, witty, Nonchalant.

Intruder: Flashy

Gerrard is very intelligent. He has great presence of mind. And he has a sense of humors also. The intruder, on the other hand, is foolish, flashy and cowardly. He has a revolver in his hand. Gerrard proves the stronger. He remains calm. He keeps his presence of mind. He talks to the intruder in a pleasant manner. He even tries to be humorous. He never lets the situation become very serious. He never says anything that can make the intruder very angry. He wins the intruder's confidence. He gets everything out of him. Then he makes up a clever story. The intruder is taken in by it. He gets locked in the cupboard.

Q10: Convert the play into a story (150-200 words). Your story should be as exciting and as witty as the play. Provide a suitable title to it?

Ans. A "Perfect actor" could be a suitable title of this story.

This play tells the story of a criminal who breaks into a lonely house. A man named Gerrard lives in this house. The intruder has killed a cop and the police is after him. He knows that Gerrard has great physical resemblance to him. So he wants to have his identity. But Garrard is very clever and he make up a story to befool the intruder. He tells the intruder that he, too, is a criminal like him. He says that he has also killed someone and the police is after him. He tells the intruder that he can help him in getting away from there in his car. He opens a door and asks the intruder to get inside. He says that through that door they can go straight to the garage. But as soon as the intruder steps in, Gerrard shuts the door and locks it. It was not the way to a garage. It was the door of a cupboard! Thus Gerrard traps the intruder very cleverly. Then he sends for the police to arrest him.