

HAND OUT

POEM – 3 RAIN ON THE ROOF

MODULE – 2

The POEM ‘RAIN ON THE ROOF’ is a description about poet’s dream that poet has lost in the memory of his mother and reminding number of happy memories with his mother.

PART OF THE POEM

Stanza 3

Now in memory comes my mother,
As she used in years ago,
To regard the darling dreamers
Ere she left them till the dawn:
O! I feel her fond look on me
As I list to this refrain
Which is played upon the shingles
By the patter of the rain.

Stanza 2

Every tinkle on the shingles
Has an echo in the heart;
And a thousand dreamy fancies
Into busy being start,
And a thousand recollections
Weave their air-threads into woof,
As I listen to the patter
Of the rain upon the roof.

tinkle: short, light ringing sound

shingles: rectangular wooden tiles used on roofs

echo: repeated sound

woof: weft, i.e. the thread woven across the loom

patter: sound of raindrops falling on the roof

'busy being' refers to human beings and here, the poet is referring to himself

EXPLANATION

The poet is expressing his feelings when he hears the raindrops falling on the roof top of his house. He says that every tinkle on the shingles has an echo in the heart. Whenever he hears rain falling on the roof top, the sound repeats in his heart and in his dreams, he has many different, fanciful imaginations. He adds that this sound of the rain falling on the roof top creates many new different dreams in his mind. He recollects many memories of the past which come back into his mind as dreams. So, he says that as he listens to the patter of the rain upon the roof, he has many new dreams in his mind and the memories of the past come back in the form of dreams.

Stanza 3

Now in memory comes my mother,
As she used in years ago,
To regard the darling dreamers
Ere she left them till the dawn:
O! I feel her fond look on me
As I list to this refrain
Which is played upon the shingles
By the patter of the rain.

ere: old poetic word for 'before'

dawn: day break

list: old poetic word for 'listen'

refrain: a repeated part of a song or a poem; here, the sound of the rain

agone: ago

EXPLANATION

Here, the poet introduces his mother. He says that he is dreaming of his mother. As he had told in the previous stanza that rain brings memories of the past – it is the memory of his mother who is no longer alive. In the past, she used to love him a lot, she used to consider him a darling and she would let him sleep till day break and have sweet dreams. The poet can still feel that his mother is looking at him as he listens to the song made by the rain drops falling on the roof top of his room. The sound of the rain makes him correlate his past with his present. That is why the poet is moved by the sound of the rain drops on the shingles of his room. Whenever he hears this sound it brings back memories of the past and he is reminded of his mother.

MODULE – 2

POEM –RAIN ON THE ROOF

WORKSHEET

Questions with answers:

Q.1) How does the poet feel for his mother?

Ans.1) The poet remembers her sweet memories and the fond look.

Q.2) What does the poet want?

Ans.2) The poet wants to be with her.

Q.3) 'I feel her fond look on me' means----

Ans.3) 'She left them till the dawn' .

Q.4) Find word from the extract which means 'repeated lines of a poem or a song'.

Ans.4) The word is 'refrain'.

Q.5) When does the poet remind of his mother?

Ans.5) The poet reminds of his mother when he listens to the rain on the roof.

Answer the following questions:

Q.1) Who are the 'darling dreamers'?

Q.2) 'She left them till the dawn' suggests that----

Q.3) What are the phrase 'fond look' point out?

Q.4) What does the word 'list' mean?

Thinking about the poem (text book questions)

Q.1) What do the following phrases mean to you?

(i) humid shadows

(ii) starry spheres

(iii) what a bliss

(iv) a thousand dreamy fancies into busy being start

(v) a thousand recollections weave their air-threads into woof

Q.2) What does the poet like to do when it rains?

Q.3) What is the single major memory that comes to the poet?
Who are the 'darling dreamers ' he refers to"

Q.4) Is the poet now a child? Is his mother still alive?

Q.5) When you were a young child, did your mother tuck you in as the poet's did?

Q.6) Do you like rain? What do you do when it rains steadily or heavily as described in the poet?

Q.7) Does everybody have a cosy bed to lie in when it rains?
Look around you and describe how different kinds of people or animals spend time, seek shelter etc. during rain.