



Poem 1

POETRY SECTION
MY MOTHER AT SIXTY SIX

- By Kamla Das

THEME: The poem "My Mother at Sixty- six" examines the themes of:

- (i) Advancing age
- (ii) The fear of loss & separation.

MAIN POINTS TO REMEMBER:

1. The poet was travelling in a car along with her mother to the Cochin airport.
2. She compares the ashen face of her mother to a dead body; suddenly realizes that her mother has grown old & will finally die leaving her alone in this world.
3. This thought is painful to her so to divert her mind she looks out of the window of the car.
4. She sees the young trees running & the happy children coming out of their homes.
5. They are representatives of youth, energy, life & are in contrast to the pale worn out face of her mother who is sleeping beside her.
6. The dull face of her mother reminds her of the late winter's moon & troubles her once again of losing her mother.
7. At last she says good bye to her mother with a smile & without disclosing her feelings and fear of separation.

Figures of Speech used:

*SIMILE-: her face ashen like that of a corpse, as a late winters moon.

*REPETITION-: smile and smile and smile

*CONTRAST-: Old mother in the car has been contrasted with the young trees running and happy children coming out of their homes to the sadness of the poet on realizing the advancing age of her mother.

SOLVED EXAMPLE:1

Q. Read the following extract and answer the questions that follow:

.....and felt that

Old familiar ache, my childhood fear,

But all I said was, see you soon,

Amma, all I did was smile and smile and smile.

(a) Name the poem and the poet.(1m)

The name of the poem is My Mother at Sixty-Six and the poet is Kamala Das.

(b) What is the poet's childhood fear?(1m)



The fear of separation from her mother.

(c) What were the parting words of the poet?(1m)

The poet said, "See you soon Amma".

(d) Why did the poet smile and smile? (1m)

The poet smiled to hide her real feelings

PRACTICE QUESTIONS:

Q.2. Read the following extract and answer the questions that follow:

Driving from my parent's

Home to Cochin last Friday

Morning: I saw my mother,

Beside me;

(a) Name the poem and the poet.

(b) Where was the poet going?

(c) What was her mother doing?

(d) Who is "I"?

Answer the following in about 30-40 words each:

Q.3.(a) What was the poet's childhood fear?

*Ans -fear of losing her mother.

(b) Why did the poet smile when she said goodbye to her mother?

(c) Why is mother compared to the late winter's moon?

(d) What were the parting words of the poet?

(e) What are the two images of youth used by the poet?