

21/4/23

POEM-1

MY MOTHER AT SIXTY-SIX

- KAMALA DAS

★ EXTRACTS

(i) I saw my mother with pain.

Q1.) Why was there pain in her realisation?

Ans. She may not see her mother again.

Q2.) Identify the figure of speech used in the extract.

Ans. Simile : her face ashen like that of a corpse.

Q3.) Why was her mother's face looked like that of a corpse.

Ans. Due to old age and ageing.

Q4.) The mother of the poetess was sleeping.

(ii) And looked out familiar ache.

Q1.) What did the poetess see out of the window?

Ans. Young trees sprinting and the merry children spilling out of their homes.

Q2.) The poetess compared her mother to what?

Ans. Late winter's moon.

Q3.) What does the poetess observe after looking at her mother?

Ans. Colourless skin tone, lack of brightness and glow, pale face.

Q4.) Which figure of speech has been used in the lines 'wan, pale as a

late winter's moon'?

Ans. Simile.

Q5.) What does the phrase 'familiar ache' signify?

Ans. Fear of losing her mother, pain of separation, her childhood fear.

Q6.) What do the ~~poets~~ ^{poetess'} parting words suggest?

Ans. To meet her mother again.

Q7.) Why did the ~~poet~~ ^{poetess} smile again and again?

Ans. ~~Smile~~ ~~Smile~~ Smile first for 'childhood's fear.'

Smile second for 'bravefront. (she didn't show her emotions).'

Smile third for 'hope for looking her mother again.'

★ QUESTION - ANSWERS

Q1.) What is the kind of pain and ache that the poet feels?

Ans. Kamala has feels ^{at} pained ~~at~~ the thought of her mother getting old. She was pained to think that she might have to lose her mother's sult, as she was likely to die.

Q2.) Why are the young trees described as sprinting?

Ans. The young trees are described as sprinting as the poetess is travelling in a speedy car and the roadside trees seemed speeding past in the opposite direction.

Q3.) Why has the poet brought in the ^{image} ~~change~~ of the merry children 'spilling out of their homes'?

Ans. The young children spilling out of their homes represent the youth

which is full of life and energy. They are in complete contrast to the poet's mother to bring out the pangs of old age and show the contrast between youth and old age.

(Q4.) Why has the mother been compared to the 'late winter's moon'?

Ans. The poet's mother has been compared to the 'late winter's moon' as the late winter's moon is dull, shrouded and it symbolises the ebbings of life. Similarly, the poet's mother is pale and old.

(Q5.) What do the parting words of the poet and her smile signify?

Ans. The parting words of the poetess are used by ~~us~~ her to reassure her mother that they would meet again and to infuse optimism in her. The poetess uses her smile to hide her feelings of fear of losing her mother to death.

★ POETIC DEVICES

- Simile (as, like)
 - * ashen like that of a corpse
 - * pale as a late winter's moon
- Personification (Living and non-living comparison)
 - * Trees sprinting
- Alliteration (repetition of first letter of words)
 - * Said, see soon

★ ABOUT THE POET

Kamala Das (1934) was born in Malabar, Kerala. She is recognised as one of India's foremost poets. Her ~~work~~ works are known for their originality, versatility and the indigenous flavour of the soil. Kamala Das has published many novels and short stories in English.