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Class-X

English

First Flight

Poem

Dust of Snow



ROBERT FROST

Part - 1

Explanation

By : Neha Rajvanshi

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dust of snow :
बर्फ के टूकड़े

stanza

The way a crow A
Shook down on me B
The dust of snow A
From a hemlock tree B

1. Rhyme Scheme - ABAB
2. Metaphor -
3. Enjambment -
4. Symbolism -



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rued : पश्चाताप

Has given my heart C
A change of mood D
And saved some part C
Of a day I had rued. D

1. Rhyme Scheme - (CDCD)
2. Enjambment -
3. Alliteration -

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Dust of Snow

[Comprehension]

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Question 1. What is a 'Dust of snow'? What does the poet say has changed his mood? How has the poet's mood changed?

Answer : A 'dust of snow' means particles of snow held together. The falling of the dust of snow on him changed his mood. First he felt sad.

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But the falling of the dust of snow changed his mood towards the beauty of nature. He realised that he should not waste his day because of his mood and should enjoy the beauty of nature.

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Question 2. How does Frost present nature in this poem? The Following questions may help you to think of an answer:

(i) What are the birds that are usually named in poems? Do you think a crow is often mentioned in poem? What images come to your mind when you think of a crow?

Answer : Birds with great qualities are usually named in poems. Some of such popular birds are cuckoo, mynah, peacock, parrot etc. A crow is rarely mentioned in poems. However, it is mentioned where there are tragic or serious themes. It is looked at ominously. When we think of a crow we made images of sadness or some bad happening.

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(ii) Again, what is "a hemlock tree"? Why doesn't the poet write about a more 'beautiful' tree such as a maple, or an oak, or a pine?

Answer : 'A hemlock tree' is a poisonous plant. It has small white flowers.

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The poet does not write about the more beautiful tree because this hemlock tree goes very well with the ominous crow and his sad mood. It heightens the sadness prevailed in the mind and the heart of the poet.

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(iii) What do the 'crow' and 'hemlock' represent - joy or sorrow? What does the dust of snow that the crow shakes off a hemlock tree stand for?

Answer : The 'crow' and 'a hemlock tree' represent sorrow and evil. The dust of snow stands for some natural beauty or something joyful.

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It means the sad day is going to change. It is going to change into something joyful for the poet.