



**JINENDER SONI**  
Founder, MISSION GYAN

## Poem-5 | The Ball

## Worksheet-3

### Multiple Choice Questions

- Who is the poet of The Ball Poem?**
  - Leslie Norris
  - Robert Frost
  - John Berryman
  - William Wordsworth
- What do children lose quite often, as per The Ball Poem?**
  - Marks
  - Temper
  - Toys & balls
  - cope with loss his own.
- What is the rhyme scheme in 'The Ball Poem'?**
  - abab
  - abcb
  - No fixed rhyme scheme
  - aabb
- Where was the boy staring down? (The Ball)**
  - The lake
  - The sea
  - The ocean
  - The harbour
- Name the literary device used in And no one buys a ball back. (The Ball)**
  - Alliteration
  - Methaphor
  - Anaphora
  - Simile
- What is the boy now, who has lost his ball, What, what is he to do? The word 'what' is repeated at the beginning of the two lines. Which poetic device has the poet used here?**
  - Personification
  - Simile
  - Metaphor
  - Anaphora
- Name the literary device used in Merrily bouncing, down the street, and then Merrily over-there it is in the water! (The Ball)**
  - Alliteration
  - Metaphor
  - Simile
  - Anaphora
- In the poem, The Ball what do all his young days signify?**
  - The boy's childhood innocence.
  - None of the above
  - The early morning time.
  - The boy's grief at the loss.

**9. Why is money called external? (The Ball)**

- (a) We need to earn money through hard work
- (b) It is not source of happiness
- (c) We can replace the lost things with its help
- (d) It is made from artificial way

**10. Identify the poetic device in 'People will take/Balls, balls will be lost always'.**

- (a) Anaphora
- (b) Repetition
- (c) Simile
- (d) Personification

**Fill in the blanks :**

- 11. By experiencing the loss of the ball, the little boy learns\_\_\_\_\_.
- 12. People will take Balls, balls will be lost always, little boy. Here, balls is a metaphor for \_\_\_\_\_.

**True / False**

- 13. The poem teaches resilience in the face of loss.
- 14. Money can fully compensate for emotional loss.

**Very Short Type Questions**

- 15. What feelings do you think, might be experienced, at the loss of a mobile phone, for a youngster today? Explain how these would be different from those felt by the boy in the poem.
- 16. Why does the poet say, I would not intrude on him? Why doesn't he offer him money to buy another ball?

**Short Type Questions**

- 17. The Ball Poem initially appears simple but it is actually quite impactful and intense. Comment upon the theme of The Ball Poem.
- 18. A ball is an easily available, inexpensive thing. Then, why is the boy so sad to lose it? (The Ball Poem)

**Essay Type Questions**

- 19. Why does the poet say, Balls will be lost always? Answer in the context of the poem The Ball Poem.
- 20. What is the central idea of the poem, The Ball Poem? How does the poet explain his ideas?

21. **Assertion (A)** : The poet chooses not to console the boy actively in the poem.

**Reason (R)** : He believes that personal responsibility in coping with grief is more effective than external comfort.

- (a) Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A
- (b) Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A
- (c) A is true, but R is false
- (d) A is false, but R is true

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### Answer & Solution

1. (c)  
The Ball Poem was written by the American Poet John Berryman.
2. (c) Toys & balls
3. (c)  
This poem does not have any fixed rhyme scheme.
4. (d) The harbour
5. (a) Alliteration
6. (d)  
When a word or phrase is repeated at the beginning of two or more lines, the poetic device (figure of speech) used is anaphora. Here, 'what' is repeated at the beginning of two successive lines. Thus, anaphora has been used.
7. (d) Anaphora
8. (a)  
The poet compares the boy's young days to his childish innocence which is now forever lost with the loss of his precious ball.
9. (c) We can replace lost things with its help
10. (b)  
Repetition of 'balls' to emphasise the inevitability of losing possessions and loved ones.
11. to cope with loss
12. All the persons and things that we love
13. True
14. False
15. The youngsters today suffer from 'No Mobile Phone Phobia'. Such people may become depressed due to the loss of their mobile phones. It is quite different from the grief experienced by the boy in the poem because the boy in the poem is not addicted to the ball. But today's generation is so much addicted to phone.
16. The poet says, "I would not intrude on him" because he wants the little boy to experience the meaning of loss in life. He knows that his loss can't be compensated by another ball. The poet does not offer him money to buy another ball because he wants to make him realize that nothing is permanent in this world and one has to accept the loss as a part of life and give up on things one loves in order to survive.

17. "The Ball Poem" by John Berryman explores the theme of loss and the harsh realities of growing up. Through the metaphor of a lost ball, the poem delves into the profound emotional and philosophical implications of losing something cherished. It highlights the inevitability of loss, the first encounter with responsibility, and the lessons about the ephemeral nature of possessions. Ultimately, it reveals how such experiences shape one's understanding of life's complexities and the resilience needed to navigate them.
18. The ball was an easily available and inexpensive item but what made the ball different is the value attached to it. It was valuable for the boy as he had childhood memories associated with it. It was not an ordinary but a special ball for him. No other ball could take its place. Therefore, he was very sad to lose it.
18. 'A stitch in time saves nine'. 'The time that flies, never comes back '. So we should not waste our precious time because time doesn't work according to us. Instead, we need to work according to time we should utilize the present fully because we can't do anything about the time that has passed and the future is uncertain.
19. Here, balls are the symbol of man's possessions. Some things are dearer to us than others. It is the custom of the world that nothing is permanent in life. We acquire our dear things and then suffer from a sense of loss. Balls will be lost and bought. This would go on constantly. That is why, the poet says, "Balls will be lost always".
20. There are two central ideas of this poem. One is the ball compared with our memories. So, when the ball is lost, the boy felt like losing his memories. Thus, the first idea is we must learn to move on in life, and overcome the grief of losing our precious life. The second idea is about internal and external pleasure. Here the boy could have bought another ball but he could never recreate the memories associated with it. Therefore, money gives external pleasure while memory gives real joy. All of us have to face this phase where we lose something/someone precious. But life does not stop with it, we need to learn brave the situation and move forward.
21. (a) The poet explicitly states he "would not intrude," suggesting it's important for the boy to work through grief independently.