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Poem-5 | The Ball

Worksheet-2

Multiple Choice Questions

- What does the phrase how to stand up mean in the poem, The Ball?**
 - To face loss and cope with it bravely.
 - To be inconsolable in the face of loss.
 - To turn away from loss.
 - How to stand on one's two feet.
- The poet does not intrude upon the boy or console him as he wants the boy to learn to:**
 - not lose his ball.
 - not lose his possessions.
 - To be careful.
 - cope with loss his own.
- Give an example of transferred epithet used in the poem 'The Ball'.**
 - Epistemology of loss
 - Desperate eyes
 - Ultimate shaking grief
 - In the world of possessions
- Why is the young boy in The Ball poem severely upset?**
 - For not being able to play
 - Because other boys don't play with him
 - Over the loss of his ball
 - All of these
- What has the boy lost in the water? (The Ball)**
 - His wicket
 - His gloves
 - His bat
 - His ball
- What is the boy playing with? (The Ball)**
 - Ball
 - Bat
 - Car
 - Bus
- Why are the boy's eyes desperate? (The Ball)**
 - Because he has lost his ball
 - Because he has lost his gloves
 - Because he has lost his money
 - Because he has lost his Money
- And no one buys a ball back. Identify the poetic device used in the line.**
 - Personification
 - Alliteration
 - Assonance
 - Simile
- According to the poet, what is the child learning? (The Ball)**
 - To be responsible
 - To bear loss
 - To be careful
 - To take care of things

10. What does the poet, John Berryman, mean by 'in the world of possessions'?

- (a) It means the little boy's precious ball.
- (b) It means the possessions of a person.
- (c) It means the loss of possessions.
- (d) It means the world full of materialistic things which provide luxury.

Fill in the blanks :

- 11. The poet says, 'No use to say 'O there are other balls because the boy is _____ over the loss of his precious ball.
- 12. On a metaphorical level, the loss of the ball signifies _____.

True / False

- 13. The ball symbolizes cherished memories or irreplaceable loved ones.
- 14. The poet offers money to replace the lost ball.

Very Short Type Questions

- 15. Why was the boy upset on losing his ball?
- 16. What does the poet mean by 'epistemology of loss' in The Ball Poem?

Short Type Questions

- 17. Explain briefly the central idea of The Ball Poem.
- 18. When we think of losses, we generally think of people or possessions. Time is considered a very precious commodity.
Explain why time can probably be one of the things people bitterly regret losing/wasting.

Essay Type Questions

- 19. Read the following extracts and answer the questions/complete the sentences that follow:
I would not intrude on him,
A dime, another ball, is worthless. Now
He senses first responsibility
In a world of possessions.
a. Who would not intrude?
b. Whose eyes are desperate?
c. The word "intrude" in the above-given extract means
d. What does the poet mean by 'first responsibility'?

20. What is the epistemology of loss in this world of possessions? How has the child learned to stand up in life?

Answer in the context of the lesson The Ball Poem.

HOTS

21. **Assertion (A)** : “Balls will be lost always” underlines the inevitability of loss.

Reason (R) : It implies that loss is a natural part of life and growing up.

- (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. (a)
The phrase 'how to stand up' emphasises the need to face loss bravely and to cope with it. It also implies that life does not stop with each loss we bear in life. People must learn to overcome loss and forge ahead.
2. (d)
The poet wants the boy to come to terms with his loss and grief. He wants the child to understand that things that are impossible cannot be replaced easily. He wants him to learn to cope with the loss as there will be many instances in life where he will have to face loss.
3. (b)
Transferred Epithet is used when an emotion is attributed to a non-living thing after being displaced from a person. In the phrase 'desperate eyes' it is not the boy's eyes that are sad, but actually the boy himself who is sad.
4. (c) Over the loss of his ball.
5. (d) His ball
6. (a) Ball
7. (a) Because he has lost his ball
8. (b)
Alliteration is the use of the same consonant sound at the start of two consecutive words. Here, 'b' sound in 'buys a ball back' demonstrates alliteration.
9. (b) To bear loss
10. (d)
'In the world of possessions' means a world that is full of materialistic things which bring comfort and ease but that can easily be lost or snatched away by a twist of fate.
11. inconsolable
12. the death of our loved ones
13. True
14. False
15. The boy was upset on losing his ball because it was his valued possession. It was a much-loved possession that he had since his childhood. It had been with him for a long time and his childhood memories were associated with it. Now, the ball was lost forever for him. He would buy a new ball but the memories of the lost ball will remain lost forever.
16. In "The Ball Poem," the phrase "epistemology of loss" refers to the process of understanding and learning from loss. The poet emphasizes the importance of valuing and safeguarding cherished possessions. Through the boy's experience of losing his ball, the poem teaches resilience, self-reliance, and the necessity of facing loss as a part of life, ultimately imparting a deeper understanding of its significance.

17. "The Ball Poem" by John Berryman explores the inevitability of loss and the emotional journey of accepting it. The boy's ball serves as a symbol representing the things we cherish. The poem follows a young boy who loses his ball, symbolizing innocence and childhood joy. Through this loss, he learns about life's transient nature and the pain of letting go, a universal experience of growing up. The poem urges reflection on the universal experience of grappling with such losses.
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.
- The poet would not intrude.
 - The boy's eyes are desperate.
 - To go/interfere into something/ matter forcefully.
 - The poet means by 'first responsibility that the boy learns to grow up and understands how to take care of his things.
20. Gains and losses are the two sides of the same coin. Getting, spending and losing things form a natural cycle of life. The boy is inconsolable at the loss of his ball. Actually, it is not the ordinary ball but his long association and attachment with it that makes the loss so unbearable. It is like the good sweet days of childhood that the boy cherishes so much but are lost and gone forever. They will never come back again. He can bear this loss by understanding the epistemology or nature of the loss. In this world of material wealth and possessions, it seems that money can buy anything. However, it is a false conception. Money has its own limitations. Its nature is external. It can not compensate for the losses that a person suffers emotionally and internally. No wealth can buy back the ball that has been lost forever. Similarly, no wealth can buy back the lost childhood.
21. (a)
- "Balls will be lost always" illustrates that losing things is unavoidable; thus R explains A well.