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Samagra Shiksha
সমগ্র শিক্ষা

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CLASS - X

ENGLISH
First Flight

POEM - 3

AMANDA!

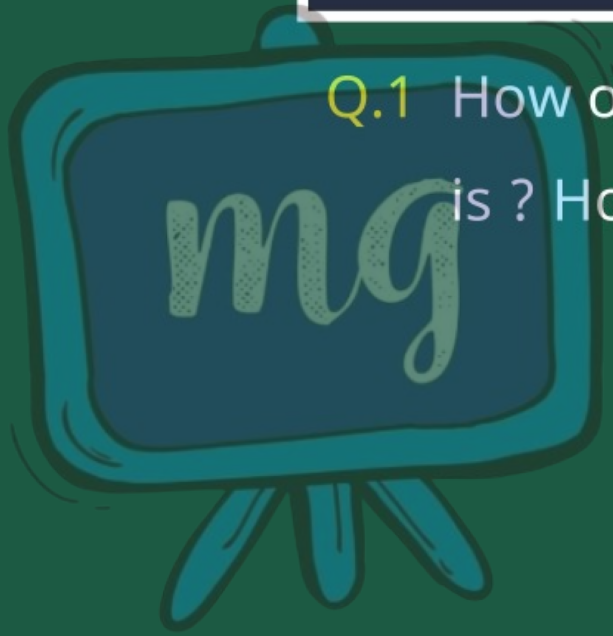
Part – 2
Comprehension

Nipa Das

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THINKING ABOUT THE POEM



Q.1 How old do you think Amanda is ? How do you know this ?

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Ans. Amanda is most likely a school going teenager. We can tell this because she's being told to do things like homework and keeping things tidy, which are things expected of kids in school. It also sounds like her parents are teaching her good manners, which is common for this age group. Amanda also has acne on her face with is commonly seen in teenagers.

Q.2 Who do you think is speaking to her ?



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Ans. One of her parents is speaking to her. Probably it could be her mother. We think this because it is a general perception that children are taken care of by their mothers at home. And a mother is the first teacher for a child.

Q.3 Why are Stanzas 2, 4 and 6 given in parenthesis ?



Ans. Parenthesis is a remark that is added as an explanation or afterthought into a passage. So in stanzas 2, 4 and 6 parenthesis is used to describe the reaction of the child 'Amanda' towards her mother's continuous nagging.

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Q.4 Who is the speaker in Stanzas 2, 4 and 6? Do you think this speaker listening to the speaker in Stanzas 1, 3, 5 and 7?



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Ans. The speaker in stanzas 2, 4 and 6 is Amanda herself. We think that she is not listening to what her mother says in stanzas 1, 3, 5 and 7.

She is completely lost in her own thought and dreams. She imagines herself as a mermaid, an orphan and Rapunzel.

Q.5 What could Amanda do if she were a mermaid?



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Ans. If Amanda were a mermaid, she could spend her days drifting peacefully on the beautiful green waves of the ocean. All alone in this underwater world, she would be free and happy, just like she imagines a mermaid to be.

Q.6 Is Amanda an orphan? Why does she say so?



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Ans. No, Amanda is not an orphan. She says so because she is depressed by the continuous scolding by her parents. Therefore, she feels that it would have been much better and peaceful if she would have been an orphan who would roam freely in the street. Being an orphan is just her imagination just as being a mermaid or Rapunzel.

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Q.7 Do you know the story of Rapunzel? Why does she want to be Rapunzel?



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Ans. The story of Rapunzel is of a girl who is captured by an old witch in a tower. The old witch climbs up the tower with the help of Rapunzel's very long hair which she let down for her through a window of the tower. Amanda wants to be Rapunzel so that she would be far away from her parents. She feels that

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life in that tower will be very calm and she makes it a point to never let her hair down for any visitors. She is so fed up with the scolding of her parents that she wants to live all alone in that tower with no one to tell her what to do.

Q.8 What does the girl yearn for? What does this poem tell you about Amanda?



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Ans. The girl yearns for freedom and peace in her life. She is constantly reminded of her mistake. Her parents wants her to be a well mannered and obedient girl. Amanda does not like all these instructions and scolding. She takes these in a very negative way and wants to run away from all these and her parents.

Q.9 Read the last stanza. Do you think Amanda is sulking and is moody?



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Ans. No, I think Amanda is neither sulking nor moody. She is simply not happy with her surroundings. She often escapes to the world of day dreams. When she comes back to the world of harsh reality, she seems to be sulking and moody. She feels that she is

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not free and is under a constant pressure of trying to be a well behaved girl as per her parent's demand.

