

**CLASS – 10**

**ENGLISH**

**First Flight**

**Poem : The Ball Poem**

**Part – 1**

**Explanation**

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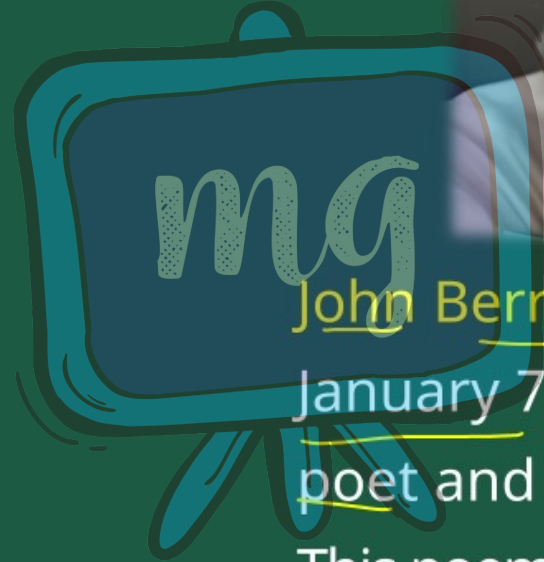


# OVERVIEW

1. The Young Boy's Loss

2. His Profound Grief

3. His Understanding of Responsibility

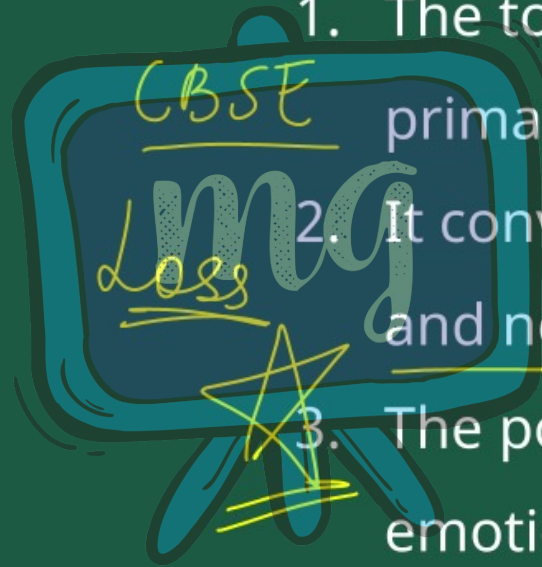


John Berryman (October 25, 1914 – January 7, 1972) was an American poet and scholar.

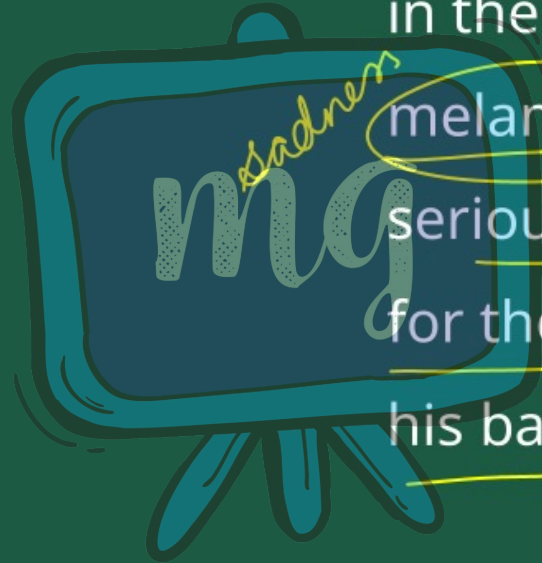
This poem is about losing something that we love and then learning to grow up.

## \*Tone:

1. The tone of the poem is primarily somber and reflective.
2. It conveys a sense of sadness and nostalgia. *serious to think*
3. The poet explores the profound emotions of loss, grief, and the transition from childhood to adulthood.

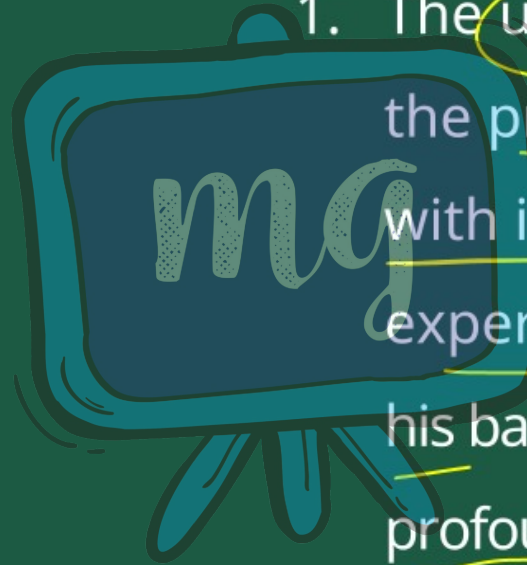


4. The language and imagery used in the poem evoke a sense of melancholy, emphasizing the seriousness of the experience for the young boy who has lost his ball.

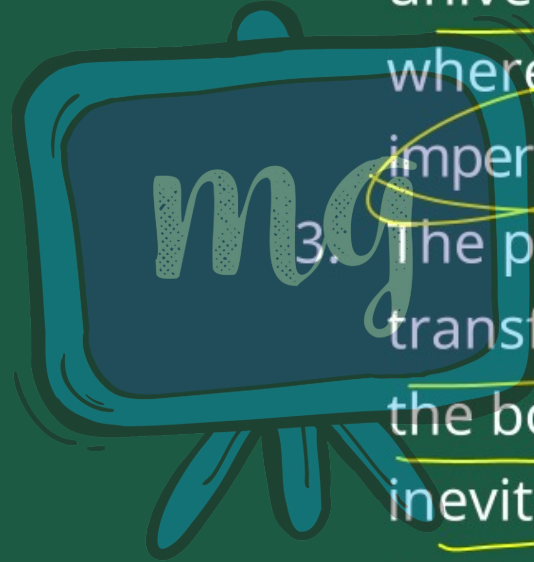


## \* Theme: \*

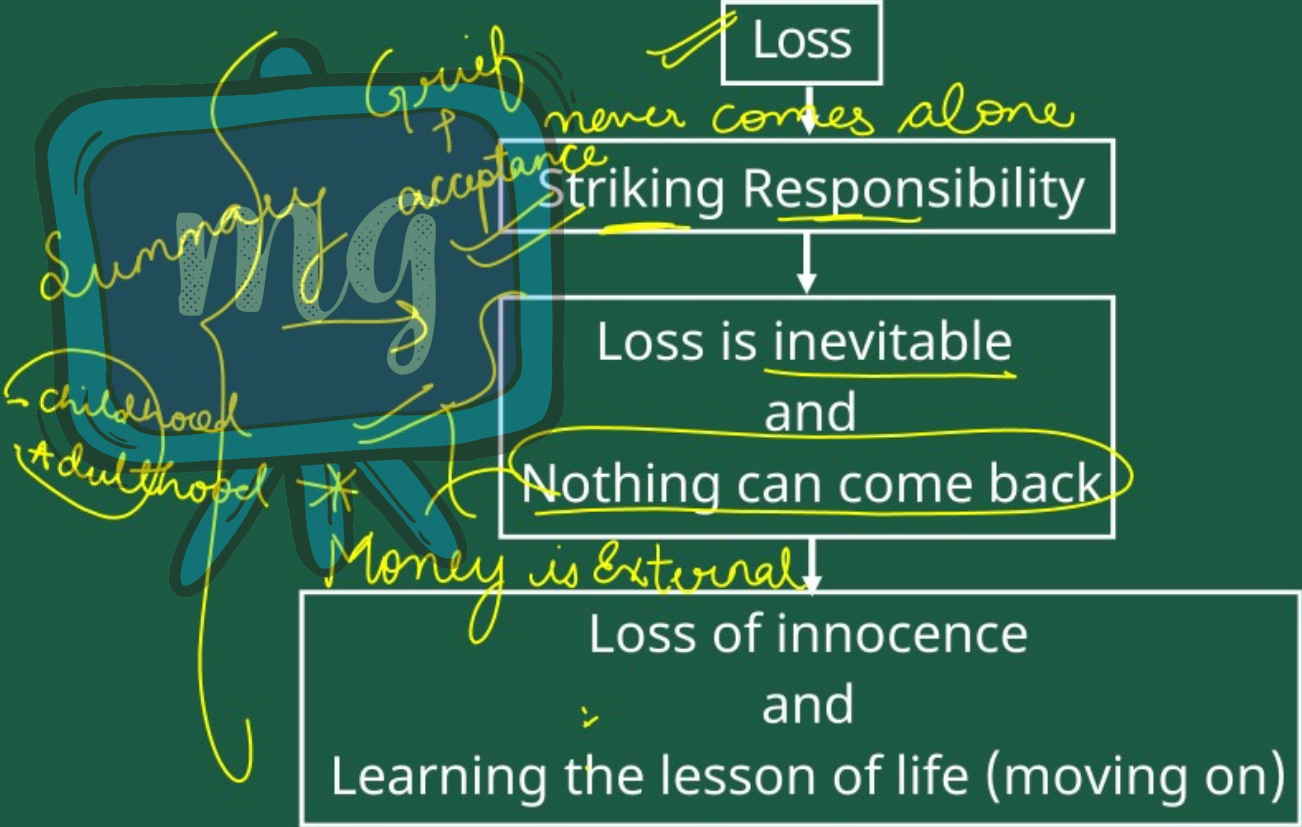
1. The universal theme of loss and the process of coming to terms with it. Through the simple experience of a young boy losing his ball, the poem explores the profound emotions accompanying loss: grief, despair, and acceptance.



2. The boy's journey reflects a universal human experience where the harsh reality of impermanence shatters innocence.
3. The poem emphasises the transformative power of loss as the boy learns to confront the inevitability of losing possessions and the deeper lessons it imparts about responsibility and resilience."



# Loss growing up and Transformation



What is the boy now, who has lost his ball,  
What, what is he to do? I saw it go

*Person*  
*Imagery* Merrily bouncing, down the street, and then  
Merrily over - there it is in the water!

\* No use to say 'O there are other balls':


*Person*  
An ultimate shaking grief fixes the boy  
As he stands rigid, trembling, staring down

\* All his young days into the harbour where

His ball went. I would not intrude on him;

A dime, another ball, is worthless.





|           |                                 |
|-----------|---------------------------------|
| Merrily   | : happily                       |
| Bouncing  | : rebounding from impact        |
| Ultimate  | : utmost                        |
| Grief     | : suffering                     |
| Fixes     | : make stable or firm           |
| Rigid     | : not flexible                  |
| Trembling | : shaking                       |
| Harbour   | : sheltered port                |
| Intrude   | : to come in inappropriately    |
| Dime      | : <u>10 cents</u> (US Currency) |



*boy → man ✓*  
Now He senses first responsibility

In a world of possessions. People will take

Balls, balls will be lost always, little boy.

And no one buys a ball back. Money is

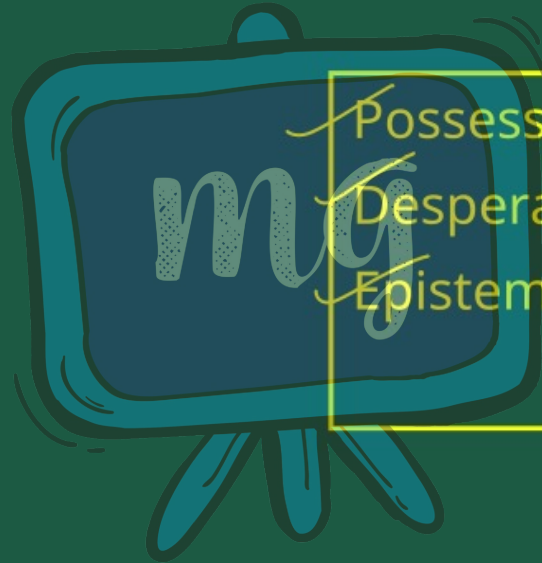
external. *it cannot buy the same sense of*

*belongingness, attachment, memories and*  
He is learning, well behind his desperate eyes,

The epistemology of loss, how to stand up  
*knowledge nostalgia*

Knowing what every man must one day know

And most know many days, how to stand up.



- ✓ Possessions : something owned
- ✓ Desperate : despair
- ✓ Epistemology : knowledge or understanding

# LEARNING OUTCOMES



**1**\* Dealing with challenges

*Responsibility*  
**2** Maturation and Resilience

# ASSESSMENT



1

What is the central emotion experienced by the boy in the poem?

- A Happiness
- B Sadness
- C Excitement
- D Anger

# ASSESSMENT



2

What does the poet suggest about the boy's realization regarding loss?

A

Loss is inevitable and part of life.

B

Loss only happens to careless people.

C

Loss can be avoided with proper care.

D

Loss is temporary and can always be replaced.

# ASSESSMENT

3

According to the poem, what is the significance of the boy's loss of the ball?

A

It teaches him the value of money.

B

It shows him the importance of friends.

C

It helps him understand the concept of responsibility.

D

It makes him realize the need for better toys.