

## **Dust of snow-Robert Frost [Poem]**

### **Gist**

Dust of Snow is a beautiful poem written by the famous American poet Robert Frost. It depicts a simple moment, but it has great significance. The poem is set on a wintry day. The snow is falling heavily. The poet is depressed and has lost all hope. He is sitting under a hemlock tree. A small natural incident changes his sad mood into a happy mood. The poem teaches us that one should never be desperate and hopeless. There is always scope for a change.

### **EXTRACT BASED COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS**

1.     The way a crow  
          Shook down on me  
          The dust of snow  
          From a hemlock tree.
  - a) The crow and the hemlock are considered as symbols of nature.
  - i.     positive   ii. negative   iii. Pleasant
  - b) What did the crow do to the hemlock tree?
  - c) Where do you think the poet was then?
  - d) What is the rhyme scheme of the given stanza?

### **ANSWERS**

- a)     ii. Negative
- b)     The crow shook the hemlock tree.
- c)     The poet was under the hemlock tree. d] abab
2.     Has given my heart A change of mood And saved some part Of a day I had rued.
  - a)     How did the poet's mood change?
  - b)     What had the poet thought of the day?
  - c)     What do you understand by the word 'rued'? d] Name the poet and the poem?

## ANSWERS

- a) The falling of snow on the poet had changed his mood.
- b) The poet had thought that it was a bad day. He was sad and depressed. c] 'Rued' means held in regret
- d) The poet is Robert Frost and the poem is 'Dust of Snow'.

## SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS:

- 1. What mood of the poet is reflected in the poem?
- 2. What do the crow, hemlock tree and dust of snow represent in the poem?
- 3. What is the message given by the poem?

## ANSWERS

- 1. The poet seems to be in a sad and depressive mood. The day offered no comfort or happiness to him. He thinks that the whole day is going to be sad and dull. He can see only negative symbols like the hemlock tree and the crow around him.
- 2. The crow is black and ugly. It is not considered as a pleasant sight. It is a symbol of bad omen. The hemlock tree is a poisonous plant with white flowers. It is a symbol of sorrow. The poet chose the crow and the hemlock tree to present his sadness and depression.
- 3. The poem teaches us that we should not be desperate because there is always an opportunity to change the sad mood into happy mood. Today, when most of the people are living in stressful atmosphere, the poem teaches us to gain happiness from little things.

## Long Answer Questions [100-150 words]

- 1. It is our attitude towards a situation that makes it positive or negative. Do you agree with it? Express your views with reference to the poem 'Dust of Snow'.

Ans: It is true that our attitude towards a problem plays an important role in making it positive or negative. Most of the people in today's world live a stressful life. They face different types of problems in day to day life. A person can neither keep away from problems completely nor find solutions for them easily. But what makes the situation worse is one's attitude towards the problems. If we are depressed or sad the whole environment becomes gloomy. But if we are ready to face the problem bravely and positively, it helps in solving the problem also.

The poet in the poem Dust of Snow was in a sorrowful mood. He felt that the whole day was going to be gloomy. But when a crow shook down snowflakes on him, his bitter mood changed into an optimistic one.

This small, regular incident wiped away his gloom and made him cheerful. He could have become unhappy when such a thing occurred. But instead of seeing the negative aspect of the incident, he took a positive vibe from it. Thus the poem teaches us to find happiness from small things and to take everything positively.

### **Unsolved Short Answer Questions**

1. How has the poet observed nature in the poem Dust of Snow?
2. What happened to the poet when the crow shook the tree?
3. What does the poet feel in the end?

### **Unsolved Long Answer Question**

1. Explain the underlying message in the poem Dust of Snow.