



Dust of Snow

—by Robert Frost

Stanzawise Explanation

Stanza 1

The way a crow
Shook down on me
The dust of snow
From a hemlock tree

Explanation In this stanza, the poet remembers a small incident that changed his mood. Once, the poet was in a depressed mood and was hopeless. He was standing (It is not clear whether the poet was standing or passing (the tree) under a hemlock tree. Suddenly, a crow sitting on the tree, shook it and some powdery snow from the tree fell on the poet.

Stanza 2

Has given my heart
A change of mood
And saved some part
Of a day I had rued

Explanation The powdery snow which fell on the poet changed his mood to happiness. Earlier, he was depressed and sad. Till now the poet had spent a part of his day in sadness, but now he starts feeling refreshed. This incident saved some part of the poet's day which he would have spent in regret.

Objective Questions

Extract Based MCQs

01. Read the extracts given below and answer the questions that follow.

The way a crow
Shook down on me
The dust of snow
From a hemlock tree
Has given my heart
A change of mood
And saved some part
Of a day I had rued.

(CBSE Question Bank 2021)

- (i) Of the many symbols the hemlock tree represents, choose the one that Frost drew upon in all likelihood, for this poem.
Symbol of
 - (a) longevity
 - (b) togetherness
 - (c) healing
 - (d) protection
- (ii) Which tree did the crow shake?

(a) Banyan	(b) Oak
(c) Mango	(d) Hemlock

(iii) Identify the option that DOES NOT use the word 'rue' correctly.

- (a) The film was a disaster and he rued his decision to act in it.
- (b) I am sure she rued the day she listened to a fortune-teller.
- (c) It wasn't long before I rued my disobedience and my deceit.
- (d) Others finally rue the one who is dishonest and heartless.

(iv) Synecdoche is a poetic device that uses a part to represent the whole. e.g. That's a great set of wheels! (Set of wheels has been used for car.)

Pick an example of synecdoche from the poem.

- (a) Has given my heart/A change of mood
- (b) The way a crow/Shook down on me
- (c) The dust of snow/From a hemlock tree
- (d) And saved some part/Of a day I had rued

(v) What fell on the poet when the crow shook a branch of the tree?

- (a) dust (b) crow
- (c) snow (d) leaves

02. The way a crow
 Shook down on me
 The dust of snow
 From a hemlock tree

(i) Which of the following things in the poem represent(s) 'sorrow'?

- 1. Crow 2. Dust
- 3. Snow 4. Hemlock tree
- 5. Heart

- (a) Only option 1 (b) Options 1 and 4
- (c) Options 2 and 3 (d) Options 3, 4 and 5

(ii) Choose the option that lists the possible feelings of the poet prior to the experience shared in the poem.

- 1. reassured 2. disappointed
- 3. curious 4. demotivated
- 5. thankful 6. disheartened

7. impulsived

- (a) 1, 3 and 7 (b) 2, 4 and 6
- (c) 5 and 7 (d) 1 and 3

(iii) Choose the option showing the reason NOT corresponding with "... a Crow/Shook down on me/The Dust of Snow."

- (a) The crow's landing on the branch of the tree.
- (b) The shivering of the crow, due to the cold.
- (c) The readjustment of position of the crow on the branch.
- (d) The cawing of the crow hidden in the foliage.

(iv) Earlier the poet was in a mood.

- (a) happy (b) pleasant
- (c) gloomy (d) good

(v) What is the rhyming scheme of the poem?

- (a) bbba (b) abab
- (c) aabb (d) abba

03.

Has given my heart
A change of mood
And saved some part
Of a day I had rued.

(i) Which of the following lines use(s) the poetic device 'alliteration'?

- 1. Has given my heart
- 2. A change of mood
- 3. And saved some part
- 4. Of a day I had rued

- (a) Only option 3 (b) Options 2 and 4
- (c) Options 1 and 3 (d) Options 3 and 4

(ii) What was the effect of the fall of the dust of snow on the poet?

- (a) It changed his mood
- (b) Changed his luck
- (c) Changed his car
- (d) Changed his job

(iii) Which of the following things in the poem represent(s) 'joy'?

- 1. Crow 2. Dust
- 3. Snow 4. Hemlock tree
- 5. Heart

- (a) Only option 3 (b) Options 2 and 3
- (c) Options 1, 4 and 5 (d) Options 3 and 4

- (iv) What was saved for the poet?
 (a) His whole day
 (b) A few days
 (c) Some part of the day
 (d) The whole week
- (v) Which word is the synonym of 'feel remorse' or 'regret' as used in the stanza?
 (a) Change (b) Rued
 (c) Mood (d) Saved

MCQs Based on Poem

- 01.** Which poem is depicted through the given image?

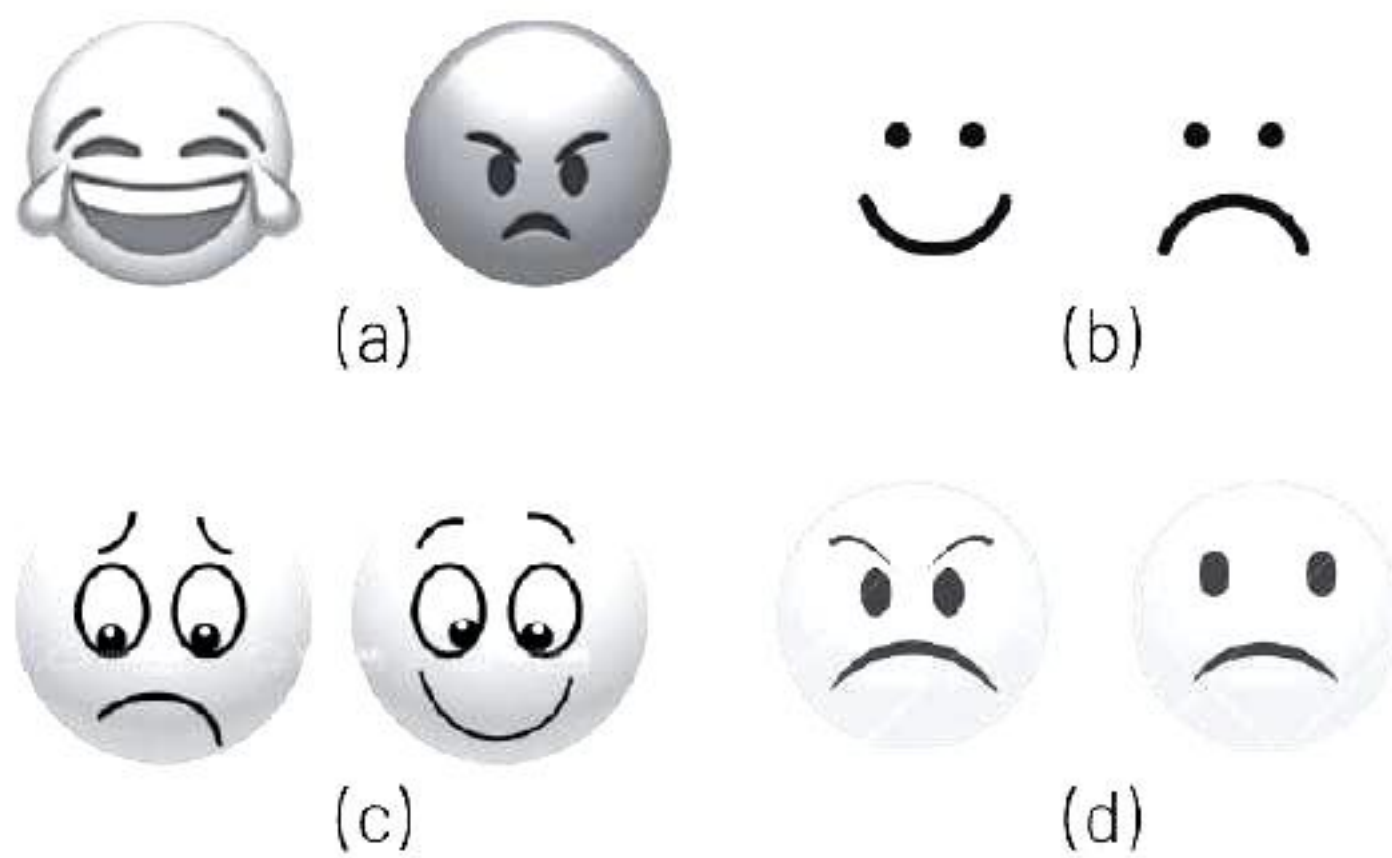


- (a) Fire and Ice (b) The Trees
 (c) Dust of Snow (d) Fog
- 02.** Why does the poet call it 'dust of snow'?
- (a) Snow particles were too tiny
 (b) They came over him like dust
 (c) They felt like dust
 (d) They looked like dust
- 03.** The poet says 'Of a day I had rued'. What is the meaning of 'rued'?
- (a) Ruined (b) Held in regret
 (c) Ruled (d) Conquered
- 04.** Which poetic device is used in the following line – 'and saved some part'?
- (a) Simile (b) Metaphor
 (c) Hyperbole (d) Alliteration
- 05.** The snow that fell from the hemlock tree changed the poet's mood. What could have been another outcome(s) of the falling of the snow on the poet?

- (i) The poet could have gotten very angry.
 (ii) The poet could have felt even more depressed because he would feel cold.
 (iii) The poet could have killed the crow for ruining his clothes.
 (iv) The poet could have cut off the hemlock tree.
 (v) The poet could have removed the snow from his head and walked away.
- (a) Options (i) and (iii)
 (b) Options (ii) and (iv)
 (c) Only option (iii)
 (d) Options (i), (ii) and (v)

- 06.** What are the two negative creatures that Frost used as carriers of positivity?
- (a) Snow, dust
 (b) Hemlock tree, snow
 (c) Snow, crow
 (d) Hemlock tree, crow
- 07.** What is the conclusion of the poem 'Dust of Snow'?
- (a) Hemlock tree and crow are the negativities in life
 (b) Every small act in life can illuminate our soul and motivate us to do better.
 (c) Dust of snow can uplift the mood
 (d) None of the above
- 08.** Through the poem Dust of Snow Robert Frost is trying to shatter all the believes that humans have about the things that they consider
- (a) Ill - omens (b) Superstitions
 (c) Orthodox (d) All of these
- 09.** What is a 'Hemlock tree' as mentioned in the poem 'Dust of Snow'?
- (a) A highly poisonous European plant of the parsley family
 (b) A tree with a purple-spotted stem, fernlike leaves
 (c) Has small white flowers, and an unpleasant smell
 (d) All of the above

- 10.** What did poet realise when dust of snow fell on him?
- That he had wasted his time being in sorrow.
 - That he should utilise his remaining day in doing some useful tasks.
- Both (i) and (ii) are correct
 - Only (i) is correct
 - Only (ii) is correct
 - Neither (i) nor (ii) is correct
- 11.** In which way did the crow shake the Hemlock tree?
- In a way that awakened the poet from his thoughts
 - In a way that made the poet noticed the simple activity going around him
 - In a way such that snow should fell on the poet
 - Both (a) and (b)
- 12.** Which of the following images show the moods of the poet before the dust of snow fell on him and after?



- 13.** The prominence of a vowel sound throughout a line is called assonance, a literary device. Identify the line of the poem “Dust of Snow” which uses assonance.

(a) Shook down on me (b) The dust of snow
(c) A change of mood (d) Of a day I had rued

- 14.** Read the statement given below and answer the following question.

“And saved some part
Of a day I had rued.”

What saved the poet’s day?

(a) The hemlock tree saved the poet’s day.
(b) The poet’s changed mood saved his day.
(c) The crow saved the poet’s day.
(d) The snow saved the poet’s day.

- 15.** Given below are two statements marked as Assertion (A) and Reason (R). Read both the statements carefully and choose the correct alternative from the following.

Assertion (A) The poet’s clothes became wet.

Reason (R) The crow shook a branch of the hemlock tree that was covered in snow.

Codes

(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.

ANSWERS

Extract Based MCQs

Extract 1

(i) (c) (ii) (d) (iii) (d) (iv) (a) (v) (c)

Extract 2

(i) (b) (ii) (b) (iii) (d) (iv) (c) (v) (b)

Extract 3

(i) (c) (ii) (a) (iii) (a) (iv) (c) (v) (b)

MCQs Based on Poem

1. (c) 2. (a) 3. (b) 4. (d) 5. (d) 6. (d) 7. (b) 8. (a) 9. (d) 10. (a)
11. (d) 12. (a) 13. (a) 14. (b) 15. (b)