

The Ball Poem

Competency Based Questions

◆ Questions on the Extracts from the Poem

Q.1. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow.

What is the boy now, who has lost his ball,
What, what is he to do? I saw it go
Merrily bouncing, down the street, and then
Merrily over - there it is in the water!

(a) The extract suggests that the poet is

- (i) an onlooker observing
- (ii) a parent recounting the incident
- (iii) the boy talking about himself
- (iv) imagining the incident

[Ans. (i)]

(b) The poet seems to have indicated the merry bouncing of the ball to

- (i) create a sense of rhythm in these lines.
- (ii) support the happiness of the experience of playing.
- (iii) contrast with the dejected feeling of the boy.
- (iv) indicate the cheerful mood of the boy.

[Ans. (iii)]

(c) Choose the situation that corresponds to the emotion behind the exclamation mark in the poem.

1. Hey! Hey! That's no way to dispose off the garbage. Have you no community sense? Please put it in the bin.

2. I knew it! I knew he'll fare well in his auditions for 'Young Chef'. Now, we prepare for the semi-finals.

3. I don't know where I've placed my ID-Card. Let me check the bag once more. Ah, finally!

4. I've been trying to call mom for the past 20 minutes and can't get through. I don't know how...Aarrgh! Again!

- (i) Option 1
- (ii) Option 2
- (iii) Option 3
- (iv) Option 4

[Ans. (iii)]

(d) The poem begins with a question. Based on your reading of the poem, the speaker

- (i) wants the boy to answer the question.
- (ii) expects the passers-by to respond.
- (iii) is looking for answers in a self-help book.
- (iv) is thinking to himself.

[Ans. (iv)]

(e) Alliteration is a literary device that occurs with the same letter or sound at the beginning of adjacent or closely connected words.

Pick the option that showcases an example of alliteration from the extract.

- (i) What is the boy now
- (ii) who has lost his ball
- (iii) I saw it go
- (iv) and then/ Merrily over

[Ans. (ii)]

Q.2. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow.

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) The poet uses the word 'ultimate' to describe the boy's reaction.

Pick the meaning that DOES NOT display what, 'ultimate' means in the context given.

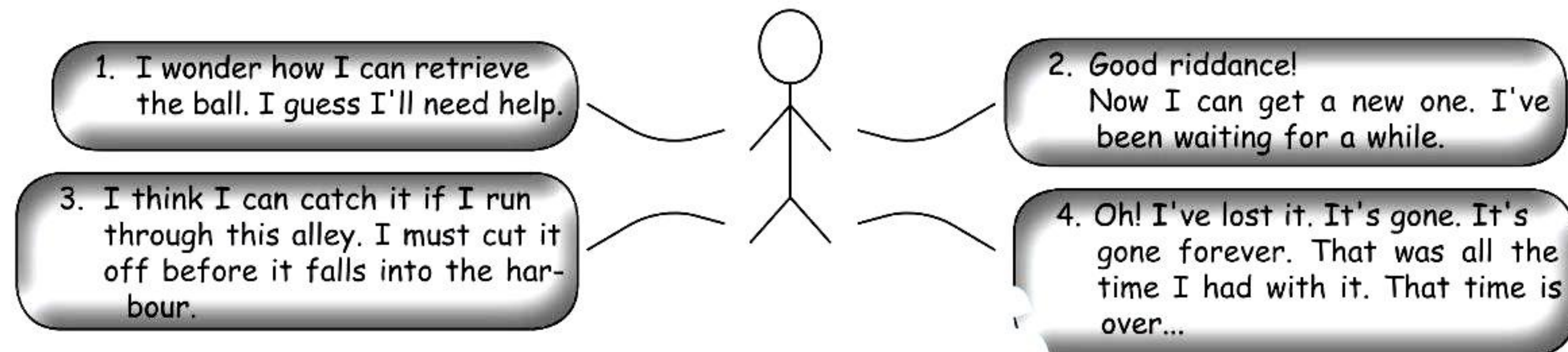
- (i) consequent (ii) final (iii) conclusive (iv) fateful [Ans. (iv)]

(b) The boy is very young in this poem. As a mature, balanced grown-up, he might look back and think that his reaction of 'ultimate shaking grief' was

1. disproportionate to the loss.
2. pretension to procure a new toy.
3. according to his exposure and experience then.
4. a reaction to the failure of retrieving the toy.
5. justified and similar to what it would be currently.

- (i) 5 & 2 (ii) 1 & 3 (iii) 2 & 4 (iv) 3 & 5 [Ans. (ii)]

(c) Pick the option that lists the boy's thoughts, matching with the line - As he stands rigid, trembling, staring down.



- (i) Option 1 (ii) Option 2 (iii) Option 3 (iv) Option 4 [Ans. (iv)]

(d) Why does the speaker choose not to intrude?

This is so because the poet

- (i) knows that it would embarrass the boy in his moment of grief.
- (ii) feels that it's important that the boy learn an important life lesson, undisturbed.
- (iii) realises that he doesn't have sufficient funds to purchase a new ball for the boy.
- (iv) Experiences a sense of distress himself, by looking at the boy's condition.

[Ans. (ii)]

(e) Choose the option that lists the meaning of 'harbour' as used in the extract.

Noun:

- (1) a place on the coast where ships may moor in shelter.
- (2) a place of refuge.

Verb:

- (3) keep (a thought or feeling, typically a negative one) in one's mind, especially secretly.
- (4) shelter or hide (a criminal or wanted person).

- (i) Option 1 (ii) Option 2 (iii) Option 3 (iv) Option 4 [Ans. (i)]

◆ Stand-Alone Multiple Choice Questions

1. What is the Boy's reaction at the loss of the ball?

- (i) The boy is least affected.
- (ii) The boy is trembling and devastated at the loss of the ball which was valuable to him.
- (iii) The boy is searching for the ball.
- (iv) The boy gets another ball.

[Ans. (ii)]

2. Where had the boy's ball gone?

- (i) In the dark waters of the harbour.
- (ii) In the deep forest.
- (iii) In the flowing river.
- (iv) In the basement of the building.

[Ans. (i)]

3. What according to the poet, the boy has to realize?

- (i) The boy has to realize what it means to lose a thing that is most dear to him.
- (ii) The boy has to realize the value for money.

- (iii) The boy has to realize not to be upset.
- (iv) The boy should realize the importance of time.

[Ans. (i)]

4. What does "in a world of possessions" mean?

- (i) It means possessing various items.
- (ii) It means a world full of artificial things.
- (iii) 'In the world of possessions' means a world full of material things valued, owned and priced because of their worth.
- (iv) The world where everyone is materialistic.

[Ans. (iii)]

5. "He senses first responsibility" – what responsibility is referred to here?

- (i) The responsibility to cope with or bear the loss through self understanding on losing the ball.
- (ii) The responsibility to take charge of his feelings.
- (iii) The responsibility to not lose your things.
- (iv) The responsibility to be happy in every situation.

[Ans. (i)]

6. What does the poet mean by epistemology of loss?

- (i) It means that loss is transient.
- (ii) It means that loss is painful.
- (iii) It means to understand the nature of loss.
- (iv) It means to cope with life.

[Ans. (iii)]

7. The poet does not offer a new ball to the boy because he wants him to learn the value of _____.

- (i) responsibility (ii) loss (iii) money (iv) ability

[Ans. (ii)]

8. While recovering from the loss, what does the boy in the 'The Ball Poem' realize?

- (i) We must learn to move on.
- (ii) Loss is a part and parcel of life.
- (iii) It was just a playing ball.
- (iv) Both (i) and (ii)

[Ans. (iv)]

9. What does the poet mean by saying 'money is external'?

It means that money can _____.

- (i) Lead to peace and prosperity.
- (ii) Only buy emotions.
- (iii) Only materialistic things and not emotions and attachments.
- (iv) Buy all the happiness in the world.

[Ans. (iii)]

10. The poet does not offer to buy the boy another ball because:

- (i) it would be worthless
- (ii) he should understand the meaning of loss
- (iii) he does not have the money
- (iv) he will lose the other ball also

[Ans. (i)]