

- Q.1** What were Kamala Das' fears as a child? Why do the fears surface when she is going to the airport?
- Q.2** How does the poet describe her mother?
- Q.3** Explain 'pale as a late winter's moon.'
- Q.4** Why did the poet promise her mother of a meeting in the near future?
- Q.5** The poet's repeated smile seems out of the place in a way. In which way is that appropriate?
- Q.6** Why does the poet look at her mother again?
- Q.7** What different images does the poet use to convey the idea of her mother's old age?
- Q.8** What kind of pain does Kamala Das feel in 'My Mother at Sixty-six'?
- Q.9** Why are the youngsters described as springing?
- Q.10** Having looked at her mother, why does Kamala Das look at the young children?
- Q.11** In the last line of the poem, 'My Mother at Sixty-six', why does the poet use the word 'smile' repeatedly?
- Q.12** Why does the poet look at 'young tree' and 'merry children'?

SOLUTION

(ENGLISH)

MY MOTHER AT SIXTY-SIX

DPP – 01

CLASS – 12th

TOPIC – MY MOTHER AT SIXTY-SIX

- Sol.1** Kamala Das fears that her mother would leave her alone and go away. These fears surface now as she looks at her old mother doze with her mouth open in the car.
- Sol.2** Kamala Das describes her mother as old, pale and senile. As she was asleep, the poet noticed that her mother looked as pale and colourless as a dead body. She seemed to have lost the vitality of life.
- Sol.3** This is an example of a simile. The poet has compared her mother's face to a winter's moon. Winter symbolises death and a waning moon symbolises decay. Just like winter loses its magnificence and beauty when covered with fog and mist, similarly the poet's mother has lost her youth and vitality, and has become inactive and withered.
- Sol.4** The poet was doubtful of seeing her mother again. She knew that the mother was also aware of the same. Yet, to encourage her mother, to leave a hope in her mind, to make herself strong, the poet promised a futile reunion in the future.
- Sol.5** The poet had no reason to smile at the time of separation from her aged mother. She was deeply distressed and pained to separate from her mother when she was so old. Yet, to make the mother feel 'there is nothing to worry,' the poet attempted to be glad, cheerful and reassured her by her extended smile.
- Sol.6** The poet looks at her mother again for the last time to reassure herself that her mother is well. She drove away her thoughts of pain and fear which had surfaced on seeing her mother. It was a look of reassurance to meet her again.
- Sol.7** Late winter's moon. Her pale, bloodless and wrinkled face resembles that of a corpse. She has no vigour and energy left in her. She looks wan and pale. The sprinting trees and merry children are happy and young. They present a contrast to the mother's pain and old age and the poet's worry and fear. They symbolise youth, vigour and spring, whereas the mother is old, decaying and frail.
- Sol.8** Kamala Das has a childhood fear of her mother ageing and while going to the airport, she sees her ageing mother looking like a corpse as she slept open mouthed and pale.
- Sol.9** The youngsters are described as springing as they are full of life. Merry children were joyfully coming out in numbers from their houses and were a contrast to her ageing mother beside her in the car.
- Sol.10** After having looked at her mother, Kamala Das was in pain. She had a fear of separation from her mother. The children outside were symbolic of dynamism, joy and life. Hence, she wanted to divert her thoughts of her ageing mother.
- Sol.11** Kamala Das wanted to make her mother feel that everything was fine. She wanted her to believe that they would meet soon. She also wanted to hide her fears about not meeting her next time. In fact, she wanted to put a brave front.
- Sol.12** The poet looks at 'young trees' and 'merry children' to divert her attention from the gloomy thoughts of losing her mother. Looking at them was a ray of hope distracting her mind from the negative thoughts.