

THE BALL POEM BY JOHN BERRYMAN

Gist: Poem at a glance

- The little boy has lost his ball.
- He can buy many new balls but he has a very deep emotional attachment and memories associated with that ball.
- So he regrets over the loss of the ball.
- The poet is indirectly trying to tell us that we should learn how to cope up with the loss.
- And money is external i.e. we can't buy memories with money.
- We all should learn our responsibility and learn to cope up with the loss.

EXTRACT BASED COMPREHENSION QUESTION EXERCISE

A)

*I saw it go
Merrily bouncing, down the street, and then
Merrily over — there it is in the water!
No use to say 'O there are other balls':
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. The poet uses the ball as a symbol of the boy's
- a) sense of adventure.
 - b) **carefree childhood days.**
 - c) ability to bounce back.
 - d) extended family.
- ii. The poet feels that there is no point consoling the boy as
- a) it would give him false hope.
 - b) he might demand for a new ball.
 - c) it might distress him further.

d) **whatever he has lost is irretrievable.**

iii. The word 'harbour' DOES NOT have a meaning similar to

- a) port.
- b) pier.
- c) dock.
- d) **cargo.**

iv. 'Merrily over — there it is in the water!' The dash here is meant to convey

- a) some familiar experience.
- b) a feeling of excitement.
- c) **a sense of unexpected interruption.**
- d) some thoughtful moments.

v. The word that DOES NOT indicate a physical manifestation of sorrow in the boy, is

- a) worthless.
- b) shaking.
- c) trembling.
- d) **rigid.**

B)

*He is learning, well behind his desperate eyes,
The epistemology of loss, how to stand up
Knowing what every man must one day know
And most know many days, how to stand up.*

(a) What is the boy learning?

Answer Hint : The boy is learning to cope up.....

(b) Why are boy's eyes desperate?

Answer Hint : Boy's eyes looks desperate as he is sad.....

(c) What do you mean by 'epistemology of loss'?

Answer Hint : Epistemology of loss' means to understand.....

(d) What every man needs to know one day?

Answer Hint: Every man needs to know one day that loss may occur to him.....

(C)

*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.

(a) Where had the boy's ball gone?

Answer Hint : The boy's ball went into the dark waters.....

(b) How has the loss affected the boy?

Answer Hint : The boy is very much troubled at the loss of his ball.

(c) Why was 'he' trembling, staring down?

Answer Hint : He was trembling, staring down as he couldn't find the ball, deeply affected by the loss...

(d) What does the poet mean by 'first responsibility'?

Answer Hint : By 'First responsibility', he, means to look after.....

(D)

.....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

(a) What does the boy understand?

Answer Hint : boy learns to grow up and understands his responsibility..

(b) What does the word 'balls' signify?

Answer Hint : 'Balls' signify the boys' innocence....

(c) What is meant by the word 'possessions'?

Answer Hint : 'Possessions' means something that is owned.....

(d) What does "In a world of possessions mean?"

Answer Hint : It means that everybody loves to possess things.....

SHORT ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS (2 MARKS QUESTIONS)

Question 1. What is the deep meaning hidden in the poem 'The Ball Poem'?

Answer hint: childhood can quickly fly...

Question 2. How important is the learning to "epistemology of loss" for the boy?

Answer hint : According the poet, the epistemology of loss is the greatest lesson, the boy is learning.....

Question 3. Why does the poet call the world ‘A world of possessions’?

Answer hint : The poet calls the world ‘A world of possessions’ because man values and is valued on the

Question 4. What do you think the poet means by following lines?

People will take Balls,

Balls will be lost always, little boy.

And no one buys a ball back.

Answer hint : We think the poet, in these lines, conveys a great message. Losing ball here symbolises miseries arising out.....

Question 5 : How does the boy ‘Senses first responsibility?

The boy loses his ball and gets upset. This was his first lesson in sensing his first responsibility. He has.....

3 MARKS QUESTIONS

Question 1. Elaborate the idea that one should learn to accept and let go and not stick to something that we can not have.

Answer hint: past is gone and will never come back.....

Question2. There’s always loss and there’s always disappointment. When someone is learning from loss, he is moving towards achievement. Elaborate.

Answer hint: Everyone experiences a loss at some point in one’s life. It might be the loss of

Question 3. staring down/ All his young days into the harbour where/His ball went...” Do you think the boy has had the ball for a long time? Is it linked to the memories of days when he played with it?

Answer hint: Yes, it seems as if the boy has had the ball for a long time. When it bounced.....

THE HUNDRED DRESSES- I

Q.1.Why does Maddie stand by and not do anything? How is she different from Peggy? (Was Peggy’s friendship important to Maddie? Why? Which lines in the text tell you this?)

Q.2: Why is Maddie embarrassed by the questions Peggy asks Wanda? Is she also like Wanda, or is she different?

Q.3: "Wanda had won the drawing contest. She had flawlessly drawn a hundred different dresses." Explain .

Q.4: Justify the title "" The Hundred Dresses -I".

Q.5: ""Peggy was the most popular girl in school. She was pretty, she had many pretty clothes and her hair was curly. Maddie was her closest friend." Illustrate the given lines.

The Hundred Dresses Part II

Q1.Read the extracts given below and choose the correct options;

The first period was a study period .Maddie tried to prepare her lessons , but she could not put her mind on her work . She had a very sick feeling in the bottom of her stomach. True , she had not enjoyed listening to Peggy ask Wanda how many dresses she had in her closet, but she had said nothing. She had stood by silently,and that was just as bad as what Peggy had done.Worse .She was a coward.At least Peggy hadn't considered they were being mean but she, Maddie had thought they were doing wrong.She could put herself in Wanda's shoes.

(a) What was the first period?

- 1.The first period was a study period.
- 2.The first period was a free period.
3. The first period was a games period.

(b) What did Maddie try to do?

- 1.She tried to talk to her teacher.
- 2.She tried to concentrate on her study.
- 3.She tried to enjoy reading.

(c) How did she feel?

1. She was very happy but disturbed.
2. she was quite happy but a little upset.
3. She was quite upset and disturbed . She felt sick.

Q2. Read the extracts given below and choose the correct options.

The two girls hurried on,they hoped to get to the top of the hill before dark.

"Ithinkthats where the Patrons kilive,"said Maddie pointing to a white house.

Wisps of old grass stuck up here and there along the pathway like thin kittens.The house and its sparse little yard looked shabby but clean. It reminded Maddie of Wanda's one dress,her faded blue cotton dress shabby but clean.

There was not a sign of life about the house.Peggykocked firmly on the door, but there was no answer.She and Maddie went around to the backyard and knocked there.Still there was no answer.

(a).Why did the girls hurry on?

- 1.The girls hurried on to meet Wanda.
- 2.The girls hurried as they wanted to reach the top of the hill before

Dark.

3.To go and ask her not to go away.

b) What have the Wisps of grass been compared to?

1. The Wisps of grass have been compared to kittens.
- 2.The Wisps of grass has been compared to tall grasses.
- 3 . The Wisps of grass has been compared to sharp weeds.

(c)What did Maddie say about Patronsksis?

- 1.Maddie said that Patronsksis lived in a little white house on the hill.
2. Maddie said that the Patronsksis lived in a palatial house.
3. M addie said that the Patronsksis lived in a little grey house.

Q3.Answer the questions in about 20-30 words.(2 marks each.)

a).What did Mr Petronski's letter say?

b).What was Miss Mason's reaction with the class?

c).What are Maddie's thoughts as they go to Boggins height?

d),What does Wanda's house remind Maddie of Wanda's blue dress.

Q4 .Answer the questions in about 40-50 words.(3 marks each)

a).How did the girls know that Wanda liked them even though they had teased her?

b) Maddie thought her silence was as bad as Peggy's teasing.
Was she right?

c) What message is conveyed through the story' The Hundred dresses II'?

Q5.Long answer type questions.Word limit 100-120. (5Marks).

a) Though Peggy and Maddie made fun of Wanda. She gifted them her special drawings'. In the light of this statement write a character sketch of Wanda Petronski.

b) Discuss the aptness or suitability of the story' The Hundred Dresses II'

.....X.....

Answer Key.

Q1. a) 1. b) 2. c) 3.

Q2. a) 2. b) 1. c) 1.

Q3. a) Wanda left school – went to a big city – children do not tease each other

Not angry – unhappy and upset – expresses her thought politely – not to hurt others feelings

c) feel sorry – request Wanda to come back – would be nice to her.

d)house shabby but clean-dress clean.

Q4. a) wrote a letter to give a drawing of green to Peggy

Blue to Maddie saw their faces – knew that Wanda loved

Them.

b)Peggy made fun of Wanda – asked about hundred dresses –
Maddie did not like – no courage to stop Peggy – did not want
To loose her friend

c)We should not hurt others feelings – we will suffer – hurt our
selves

- Q5. a) Her hundred dresses refers to the drawings of hundred
Dress designs—despite mockings she remained calm—
When she could not tolerate she left school—large hearted
--gifted her drawings --- showed her friendly feelings.
- b) focuses on hundred dresses—it was actually her designs
-- she left school – gets a letter—replies –shows herlove and
Affection for all—she considered Peggy and Maddie as frien-
-ds.—designs make the title meaningful.

.....X.....