

AMANDA(POEM)

BRIEF SUMMARY

The little girl Amanda is biting her nails and her mother asks her not to do it.

Amanda is putting her shoulders down to one side and her mother asks her to sit up straight.

Amanda doesn't bother what her mother says and is lost in a world of dreams and fantasy.

She imagines herself moving all around freely and blissfully like a mermaid.

Amanda's mother asks if she has finished her homework and reminds her to clean her shoes.

Amanda doesn't care a bit what her mother says to her.

She is again in the world of dreams and fantasy.

She prefers to be an orphan than living such a life and wants to roam around the streets freely and aimlessly with her bare feet. The pressing of the feet will create designs on the soft dust.

She loves silence, and freedom is the sweetest thing that she values in her life.

Further, she is told not to eat chocolate as she is having pimples on her face.

Her mother reminds her to observe good manners and tells her not to look the other way when her mother is speaking to her.

Again, Amanda ignores her mother and imagines herself as Rapunzel living in a tower where there is a reign of peace and tranquillity.

Amanda is proud of her beautiful hair and would not let them down like Rapunzel.

Amanda's mother calls her moody and asks her to stop being sulky and unhappy at once because if she remains unhappy, people will think that her mother has been nagging her.

No reaction of Amanda has been written by the poet for this

Q.1 Read the stanza and complete the answers:

Remember your acne, Amanda!

Will you please look at me when I'm speaking to you?

Q.(a) Amanda has been asked to _____.

Q (b) The speaker has asked Amanda to do so because she has a tendency to get _____.

Q.(c) The speaker wants Amanda to look at him so that he can ensure that Amanda is _____.

Q.(d) Amanda is not looking at the speaker because.....

Q.2 Why has the poet used the exclamation mark after Amanda? Comment on the title of the poem.

Hint: The exclamation mark is used after Amanda to show the mother's surprise on seeing Amanda. The title is appropriate.

Q.3 What is the theme of the poem — 'Amanda'?

Hint: Too many instructions and too much control are resented by children. They get bored and fed up.

Q.4 What message does the poet want to give through the poem — 'Amanda'?

Hint: The poet wants to convey that parents should adopt positive measures, acceptable to children.

Otherwise, they will stop listening to them and indulge in daydreaming as Amanda did.

Q.5 Is Amanda at fault at all?

Hint: Its answer can be yes or no depending upon you. So do it yourself.

Q.6 Discuss the importance of proper upbringing with reference to the poem Amanda by Robin Klein.

Hints: * Upbringing plays an essential role in personality development of an adult.

Upbringing is always questioned whenever someone does something right or wrong.

Robin Klein's poem highlights the tension in the 'proper' upbringing of a child.

To instil good values and moral principles in a growing child comes as a foremost duty for the parents.

However, the poem Amanda shows how a child feels trapped within the cluster of instruction. .

As a result, she feels trapped and seeks an escape.

Her imagination proves to be her escape and also her defence against her nagging parents. Situation of Amanda is so worse that she wishes to be an orphan, in order to get rid of her parents.

Q.no.7 Escapism is one way to run away from harsh realities. Discuss in context to the poem.

Hints *. An advice in the form of nagging leaves a very harmful impression on the child's mind.

* The reality becomes harsh form them and they try to escape these realities by indulging in their own fantasy world.

* Here in this poem, life of Amanda is quite frustrating as Amanda is forbidden to do anything without seeking permission.

* Amanda drifts into an imaginary situation to escape from the harsh realities of her life. The parent's behaviour is forcing her to do so, as a result there will not be a balanced development of her personality.

* Parents need to understand that their child also requires freedom and his/her own space. If no space is given, child will develop one or the other complex which may hamper his/her normal growth.

Q.8 What is the central idea of the poem?

Hint: The central idea of the poem is that children love freedom. Secondly, they have a dream world of their own. They like to spend most of their time in that dream world.

Q.9 What made Amanda sulk? Why does her mother ask her to stop sulking?

Hint: Her mother's instructions

Her mother thinks that others will blame her for Amanda's sulking.

Q.10 Who wants to be an orphan? Why?

Hint: Amanda because of constant nagging by her elders.