



AMANDA



Explanation of the Poem:

Stanza 1

Don't bite your nails, Amanda!
Don't hunch your shoulders, Amanda!
Stop that slouching and sit up straight,
Amanda!

Explanation: Amanda's mother scolded her for nail-biting and slouching, urging her to break the bad habits. With a stern "Amanda!" she expressed frustration at her daughter's behavior.

Stanza 2

(There is a languid, emerald sea,
where the sole inhabitant is me-
a mermaid, drifting blissfully.)

Explanation: Lost in her imaginative world, Amanda envisions herself as a lone mermaid in a stunning green sea. She dreams of gracefully navigating the gentle southern waves, convinced that life as a mermaid would be tranquil and serene.

Stanza 3

Did you finish your homework, Amanda?
Did you tidy your room, Amanda?
I thought I told you to clean your shoes,
Amanda!

Explanation: Amanda's mother questions her about the tasks at hand, asking if she completed her homework and tidied her room as instructed.

Stanza 4

(I am an orphan, naming the street.
I pattern soft dust with my hushed, bare feet.
The Silence is golden, the freedom is sweet.)

Explanation: Amanda, lost in her imagination, ignores her surroundings. She envisions herself as a carefree orphan wandering barefoot in the warm dust, reveling in the freedom to explore and do as she pleases in her imaginative world.

Stanza 5

Don't eat that chocolate, Amanda
Remember your acne, Amanda
Will you please look at me when I'm speaking to
you, Amanda

Explanation: Amanda's mother warns her not to eat chocolates due to past acne issues. Despite being lost in her thoughts, her mother sternly insists that she pays attention and listens closely.

Stanza 6

(I am Rapunzel, I have not a care;
life in a tower is tranquil and rare,
I'll certainly never let down my bright hair)

Explanation: Lost in her imagination, Amanda envisions herself as Rapunzel, living peacefully in a tower without worries. Emphasizing her solitude, she declares that, as Rapunzel, she'd keep her hair up and never allow anyone to enter her tower.

Stanza 7

Stop that sulking at once, Amanda
You're always so moody, Amanda!
Anyone would think that I nagged at
you, Amanda!

Explanation: Amanda's mom tells her to hide her annoyance and moodiness, cautioning against showing distress from constant instructions.

Extract Based Questions:

1. Don't bite your nails, Amanda!
Don't hunch your shoulders, Amanda!
Stop that slouching and sit up straight,
Amanda!

a) Amanda is getting instructions for what purpose?

Ans: Amanda is getting instructions as a part of her upbringing. Her conduct and manners are being refined for future purposes.

b) Give a synonym for 'hunch'.

Ans: Bend.

(c) What does the speaker of the above lines instruct Amanda in the first stanza?

Ans: Amanda is being instructed not to bite her nails and sit lazily with her shoulders bent.

(d) What is the literary device used in the third line?

Ans: The Literary device used in the third line is Alliteration. 'Stop that slouching and sit up straight'.

2. There is a languid, emerald sea, where the sole inhabitant is me
- a mermaid, drifting blissfully.)

a) Why are these lines given within brackets?

Ans: These lines are given within brackets because they reveal the inner thoughts of Amanda. Brackets are used for visual contrast between what Amanda is saying and what her mother is instructing.

b) Give the word from the passage that means free free-flowing act of going with the motion and force.

Ans: Drifting means the free-flowing movement with the current.

c) What is the role of the mermaid here?

Ans: The Mermaid is a part of Amanda's fantasy in her own created world. Just as a mermaid sails freely in the sea, Amanda longs to be alone and carefree.

d) Which word in the extract means the opposite of 'sorrowful'?

Ans: Blissfully is the opposite of sorrowful.

Top 10 PYQs:

Short Answer Questions (40-50 words each)

1. Is the purpose of someone constantly giving instructions to Amanda being fulfilled? Explain.

Answer: No, Amanda sulks and becomes moody when her mother gives her too many instructions. She does not listen to her mother and doesn't care to follow them but she can't dare to ignore them either so, she sulks. Parents in their endeavour to make their children well-behaved, give them too many instructions.

2. Amanda imagines herself to be Rapunzel, yet would not like to do what she did. Identify and state the reasons for her decision.

Answer: On a snowy morning, the poet traveled with a heavy heart. The landscape was cloaked in snow dust, and his spirits mirrored the gloom. A crow perched on a hemlock tree altered the scene by shaking it, causing a gentle snowfall on the poet. This simple act transformed his mood, turning his sadness into happiness and bringing a sense of relaxation.

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

Answer: The poet wants to convey that parents in their endeavor to make their children well-behaved, mannerly having good habits, give them too many instructions or nag (always finding fault) them. They should adopt positive measures, acceptable to children. Otherwise, they will stop listening to them and indulge in daydreaming as Amanda did.

4. How does Amanda behave when the poem starts? What does the speaker ask her not to do?

Answer: When the poem begins, we find that Amanda is biting her nails. She is hunching her shoulders.

She is sitting in a slouching posture. That is why the speaker asks her to behave normally. He asks her not to bite her nails and hunch her shoulders. She should sit up straight.

5. What does the speaker tell Amanda in the end? What is the speaker afraid of?

Answer: The speaker tells Amanda to stop sulking, as he believes she always appears moody. He is afraid that others might think he constantly nags her.

6. Do you think that Amanda doesn't like to be controlled and instructed not to do one thing or the other? Give a reasoned answer.

Answer: Yes, Amanda values her freedom and dislikes being constantly instructed. She wants to live life on her own terms without interference. When repeatedly told what to do, she feels restricted. Though she does not openly defy her mother, she withdraws into her imagination as a way to escape.

7. List the things that Amanda's mother doesn't want her to do.

Answer: Amanda's mother stops her from hunching her shoulders and bending her body. She also forbids her from eating chocolates, fearing they may cause pimples. Additionally, she urges Amanda to stop sulking to prevent others from assuming she is being constantly scolded.

8. Why does Amanda's mother ask her to stop sulking?

Answer: Amanda's mother believes she is moody and worries that if she appears unhappy, others might blame her for nagging her daughter. She does not want to be perceived as overly strict or controlling.

9. What could Amanda do if she were a mermaid?

Answer: If Amanda were a mermaid, she would blissfully drift through the sea, enjoying complete freedom without any restrictions. This reflects her deep desire to escape from constant instructions and experience independence.

10. What is the fear of the speaker that is explained in the last stanza?

Answer:

In the last stanza, the speaker advises Amanda not to remain moody and sulking. The reason behind this is that she does not want to expose it before others. Otherwise, people will think that she was teased by the speaker. It was her fear.