

BRAIN INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

English Assignment

Class: IX

November 2024

BEEHIVE

Poem 8: A Slumber Did My Spirit Seal

Theme: The poem "A Slumber Did My Spirit Seal" by William Wordsworth underscores the themes of loss, mortality, and the transient nature of life. The poet reflects on the death of a loved one, acknowledging how death has transformed her into a part of the eternal and unchanging aspects of nature. The poem conveys a sense of quiet resignation and acceptance, illustrating the contrast between life's vitality and the stillness of death.

Q. Answer the following questions.

- How does the speaker's perception of the loved one change after her death?
- What is the significance of the phrase "A slumber did my spirit seal" in the poem?
- Discuss how Wordsworth uses imagery in "A Slumber Did My Spirit Seal" to convey the transition from life to death. How does this imagery enhance the emotional impact of the poem?
- Analyse how the poem reflects Wordsworth's views on human connection to nature.

Poetic Devices:

- Alliteration:** Wordsworth uses alliteration to create a gentle, flowing rhythm. For example, in "rolled round," the repetition of the "r" sound enhances the sense of continuity and movement, reflecting the cycles of nature.
- Personification:** The poet personifies "slumber" and "spirit," suggesting that the speaker's awareness or spirit is sealed or numbed by a sleep-like state, which symbolizes the shock or numbness caused by the loved one's death.
- Imagery:** Wordsworth uses vivid imagery to describe the beloved's transformation after death, such as "earth's diurnal course" and "rocks, stones, and trees," evoking a sense of unity with nature and the stillness of death.
- Metaphor:** The term "slumber" metaphorically represents a state of oblivion or ignorance regarding the reality of mortality. The "slumber" signifies the speaker's initial unawareness or denial of the loved one's eventual death.

CH-9: If I were You

Theme: The theme of "If I Were You" centres on the power of wit and quick thinking in overcoming danger. The protagonist, Gerrard, uses his intelligence and composure to outsmart a criminal intruder who plans to assume his identity. The play emphasizes that calmness and presence of mind can be more effective than physical force in critical situations.

Q. Answer the following questions.

- What does the intruder want from Gerrard, and why does he break into his house?
- How does Gerrard trick the intruder into believing he is a dangerous criminal?
- Why is the play titled "If I Were You"? How does this title relate to the events of the play?
- Analyse how Gerrard's quick thinking and wit help him handle the dangerous situation with the intruder. What does this reveal about the importance of composure in unexpected situations?

- e. Discuss the themes of identity and deception in "If I Were You." How does Gerrard's manipulation of the intruder's assumptions ultimately lead to the intruder's downfall? Provide examples from the text to support your answer.

MOMENTS

CH-5: The Happy Prince

Theme: The story "The Happy Prince" by Oscar Wilde explores themes of compassion, sacrifice, and social inequality. The statue of the Happy Prince, once oblivious to suffering, sees the harsh realities faced by the poor in his city and sacrifices his own beauty to help them. With the help of a little Swallow, he aids the needy, showing that true happiness comes from selflessness and empathy. The story conveys the importance of kindness and the value of inner beauty over material wealth.

Q. Answer the following questions.

- Why does the Happy Prince ask the Swallow to stay with him?
- How does the Happy Prince's view of happiness change after he becomes a statue?
- In what ways does the Swallow show empathy and compassion in his actions?
- Pen down the character-sketch of the Swallow in "The Happy Prince". How does his journey from self-interest to selflessness mirror the values of sacrifice and friendship presented in the story? Provide examples from the text.

CH-6: The Last Leaf

Theme: The theme of "The Last Leaf" by O. Henry centres on hope, friendship, and sacrifice. The story illustrates how selfless love and compassion can inspire strength in others. Behrman's final act of painting a leaf to give Johnsy hope symbolizes resilience and the power of small acts of kindness, ultimately showing that true art can save lives.

Q. Answer the following questions.

- How does Johnsy's attitude towards life change after seeing the "last leaf"?
- What does Behrman's painted leaf symbolize in the story?
- How does Sue demonstrate compassion and friendship towards Johnsy?
- Elucidate how "The Last Leaf" explores the theme of sacrifice through the character of Behrman. How does his final act affect both Johnsy and Sue?
- Analyse the role of hope in "The Last Leaf." How does O. Henry use the symbol of the last leaf to convey a message about resilience and the will to live? Provide examples from the text.