



ASSIGNMENT NO-1 SUBJECT: ENGLISH

CLASS: XI

April/May '26

The Portrait of a Lady

Theme: Changing relationships between the elderly members of the family and their children and grandchildren. Generation gap, along with the preoccupation with acquiring materialistic possessions, severs our relationship with the elders of our family, and they quietly accept their seclusion.

Questions

1. When people are pious and good, even nature mourns their death. Justify.
2. The grandmother was not pretty but beautiful. How?
3. Discuss the relevance of the title, 'The Portrait of a Lady.'
4. Describe the days when the author lived with his grandmother in the village.
5. Would you agree that the author's grandmother was a person strong in character? Provide instances that support your view.

Photograph

Theme: The transient nature of humans and the permanence of nature. Humans, being mortal, will die and perish, while nature remains eternal. The poem also reflects the sense of bereavement that a child experiences after the loss of a mother.

Poetic Devices Used in the Poem

Allusion: Reference to an external subject. Example: 'cardboard,' symbolizing the photograph.

Alliteration: Repetition of initial consonant sounds. Example: 'stood still to smile,' 'terribly transient,' and 'Its silence silences.'

Transferred Epithet: Example: 'Transient feet,' representing the impermanence of human life.

Oxymoron: Use of contradictory terms. Example: 'Labour'd ease' — a combination of difficulty and comfort.

Personification: Example: ‘Its silence silences,’ where silence is attributed with human characteristics.

Questions

1. Explain what is suggested by the phrase “terribly transient feet.”
2. “It silence silences.” Explain.
3. What does the cardboard denote both literally and metaphorically?
4. Explain the phrase “laboured ease of loss.”

We’re Not Afraid to Die... If We Can All Be Together

Theme: Dedication, resilience, and courage enable individuals to overcome even the most daunting challenges, while the strength of family bonds serves as a steadfast source of support, demonstrating that unity makes the seemingly impossible attainable.

Questions

1. The children demonstrated bravery beyond their years. Discuss.
2. Why were they desperate to find an island? How did they manage to succeed?
3. When did the voyagers’ journey start, and how did they fare along the route?
4. At what point did the couple lose all hope of survival?
5. How did the narrator and his family prepare for the adventurous journey?

The Summer of the Beautiful White Horse

Theme: The story highlights how a child's judgment can be clouded by desires and aspirations. However, the values instilled by family eventually guide them back to honesty. It also offers a glimpse of the world from a child's perspective.

Questions

1. Do you think John Byro recognized his horse? Why did he not accuse the boys of theft?
2. Describe the ride of Aram and Mourad when they went out together for the first time.
3. The narrator mentions a ‘crazy streak’ running in his family. Which two characters displayed this streak? Provide instances showcasing their eccentric behaviour.
4. Why was the sight of Mourad’s horse both delightful and frightening for Aram?
5. Mourad had a special understanding with three creatures. Who were they, and how did his connection with them reflect his character?