



ASSIGNMENT NO. 3

SUBJECT: ENG

CLASS-VII

OCTOBER'2026

P-10: As I Grew Older

Theme: The poem explores the theme of lost dreams and racial oppression. It shows how, as the speaker grows older, racism and discrimination build a wall that blocks his dreams, once bright and full of hope. The poem also expresses a strong message of struggle and resistance, as the speaker gathers strength to break through the wall of darkness and reclaim his dreams. Ultimately, it is a poem about hope, determination, and the fight against injustice.

Poetic Devices:

1. Metaphor-A comparison between two unlike things without using "like" or "as".

Example: "The wall rose..." (The wall represents obstacles or racism)

2. Imagery-Descriptive language that appeals to the senses.

Example: "Bright like a sun" (creates a vivid mental image of hope)

3. Symbolism- Use of symbols to signify deeper meanings.

Example: "Shadow" (symbolizes oppression or hopelessness)

4. Repetition-Repeating words or phrases for emphasis.

Example: "Only the shadow. / Only the wall."

5. Alliteration-Repetition of consonant sounds at the beginning of words.

Example: "Smash this shadow"

6. Enjambment- The continuation of a sentence without a pause beyond the end of a line.

Example: "I have almost forgotten my dream. / But it was there then,"

7. Contrast- A striking difference between two ideas or images.

Example: Light vs. Shadow (hope vs. oppression)

8. Free Verse- Poetry without regular rhyme or rhythm.

Example: The poem has no consistent rhyme scheme or meter.

Answer the following questions:

1. How does the poet describe his dream in the beginning of the poem? What does the comparison with the sun suggest?
2. What does the wall symbolise in the poem? How does it affect the poet's dream?
3. Explain the significance of the lines "Only the thick wall. / Only the shadow."
4. Why does the poet refer to his hands as "My dark hands"? What does he want them to do?
5. What does the poet wish to achieve by breaking the shadow into "a thousand lights of sun"? Explain the message conveyed through these lines.

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"To break this shadow
Into a thousand lights of sun,
Into a thousand whirling dreams
Of sun!"

1. How does the poet wish to transform the shadow in the given lines?
2. What does the phrase "a thousand whirling dreams" suggest?
3. Which poetic device is used in the phrase "a thousand lights of sun"?
 - (a) Simile
 - (b) Metaphor
 - (c) Alliteration
 - (d) Personification

Ch-9: Oliver Twist

Theme: The chapter highlights the harsh and inhuman conditions of workhouses in 19th-century England. It shows how poor and orphaned children like Oliver were deprived of basic food, care, and dignity. The theme also exposes the cruelty of authorities who were meant to help the poor but instead punished them. It emphasizes injustice, suffering, and the struggle for survival.

Answer the following questions:

1. Why was Oliver's simple request for more gruel considered a serious offence by the workhouse authorities?
2. How does Charles Dickens expose the cruelty of the poor relief system through the story of Oliver Twist?
3. How does the episode of asking for more gruel become a turning point in Oliver's life?
4. What impression do you form of the workhouse authorities from the way they treat Oliver?
5. How did the master react when Oliver asked for more food?

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“With this view, they issued three meals of thin gruel a day, with an onion twice a week and half a roll on Sundays.”

1. What does the phrase “thin gruel” tell us about the quality of food provided to the children?
2. How often were the children given an onion and half a roll?
3. What does this extract reveal about the living conditions of the children in the workhouse?
