

My MOTHER AT 66 (Poem)

by Kamala Das

Q/A

Q 1 What is the kind of pain and ache that the poet feels?

Ans. When the poet looks at her mother's face closely, she discovers that she has aged and her end is near. The feeling of her mother being old, needing care and help pains the poet as there is no one to look after her. She feels that her mother can die any moment and that then she will lose her forever. Her childhood fear of losing her mother which was then timely but now, will be forever, resurfaces. The poet feels the pain of her mother's old age and her helplessness towards her. She has the fear of separating from her mother forever, upon her death.

Q 2 Why are the young trees described as sprinting?

Ans. The young trees have been personified when looked at from the poet's moving car, they seem to be running past. The poet found it to be

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strikingly opposite to her who looked as still as a dead body.

Q 3 Why has the poet brought in the image of the merry children 'spilling out of their homes'?

Ans The poet brings in the image of the merry children to show the deep contrast between the joy and happiness of the life which can be seen in the merry children and the passivity of life which can be felt by looking at the ashen face of the old mother who is old and decaying.

Q 4 Why has the mother been compared to the 'late winter's moon'?

Ans The mother has been compared to the 'late winter's moon' because the moon in the winter season is dim and appears lifeless, it doesn't look shiny. Similarly the poet's mother, due to ageing, has become dull, her colour is similar to that of ash. It looks dull and has lost its youth. She looks like a corpse.

Q 5 What do the parting words of the poet and her smile signify?

Ans. The parting words of the poet show her positive attitude. She overcomes her pain and fear, assures herself and her mother that they would meet again. She is being very brave which is indicated by the use of repetition in the poem: smile and smile and smile ---

Q 6 What was the childhood fear that now troubled the poet?

Ans. The childhood fear of death and decay now troubled the poet. She is concerned about her mother's weak health and old age.

Q 7 What do the poet's parting words suggest?

Ans. The poet's parting words reveal her fear. Though she hopes she will see her mother soon but she is anxious about her mother's deteriorating health and falls short of words to convey her true feelings.

Q 8 What helped Kamala Das put away the thought of her mother's old age?

Ans. The poet started looking out of the window because she wanted to drive away the pain and agony she was experiencing by looking at her aged mother. She looked outside

at the world which was full of life and activity. She saw young trees running past her and merry children sprinting out of their homes to play.

H.W - Do the given work
in your notebook and
also revise the poem
for oral test which will
be conducted on tomorrow