

ENGLISH LITERATURE

CLASS VIII

WE ARE SEVEN

Q1.WHERE DID THE POET MEET THE CHILD? HOW OLD WAS SHE?

ANS. The poet met the little country maid while he was sauntering in the countryside.

The child was about eight years old.

Q2.WHAT IMPACT DID THE CHILD HAVE ON THE POET AND WHAT DID HE ASK HER?

ANS. The poet was deeply impressed by the child's beauty and her carefree ways.

He asked her that how many siblings did she have.

Q3. WHERE WERE SIX OF HER SIBLINGS?

ANS. Two of her siblings had gone to the city of Conway and never came back, while two went to the sea and probably got drowned and two had died of sickness and were buried in the courtyard of the church.

Thus she had lost all her brothers and sisters and was the lone survivor.

Q4. WHY DID THE GIRL EMPHASISE THAT THEY WERE SEVEN?

ANS. The little girl emphasised that they were seven because she was deeply associated with her siblings and though she could not see or hear any of them yet her heart was full of love for them and her mind had lots of happy memories. Thus they were living for her.

Q5. DESCRIBE THE CHILD'S ASSOCIATION WITH HER DEAD SIBLINGS.

ANS.The child felt very deeply for all her siblings

To her,they were not dead and she neither cringed at their memory nor remembered them in a sad way.

Though she knew they were dead yet she recalled them happily and they continued to be an inseparable part of her life.

Q6. WHY DOES THE POET USE THE EXPRESSION " IT WAS THROWING WORDS AWAY"?

ANS. The poet uses this expression to show the fact that he was unable to convince the girl that all her siblings had died and she was the lone survivor.

The poet's logical arguments had no impact on the girl and she continued to insist that they were indeed seven siblings.

Thus the poet says that all arguments tantamounted to " throwing words away" as it was impossible to convince the girl of the starkly sad reality.

Q7. BRING OUT THE DEEPER MEANING OF THE POEM.

ANS. The poem brings out the poignant fact that death ends a life but it does not end a relationship.

In the beginning, the poet felt that the carefree little girl had no idea of the finality of death and that is why she insisted that " we are seven"!

However as the conversation flowed along, the poet realised the depth of the child's thoughts.

The little girl very well knew that her siblings were dead and she would never hear, see or touch them ever again and yet this did not alter their relationship for she was still deeply involved with them. She played around their graves, sang to them and knitted close to their lovely green graves.

Her love for them was not dependent on there being alive, in fact they were still around her and she could feel them. Their love was alive and even death could not break her bond with her siblings.

Thus the little girl had a much deeper understanding of death than the poet did.

Q8 WHAT IS THE RHYME SCHEME OF THE POEM?

ANS. abab

Q9. HOW DOES THE CHILD DESCRIBE THE PASSAGE OF TIME?

ANS. The child describes the passage of time by referring to the weather and seasons .

She uses phrases as " when the grass was dry" and " and when the ground was white with snow".