

Class 12 chapter 3 Poem - My mother at sixty-six

About the Poet: Kamala Das was born in Malabar Kerala. She is recognized as one of the India's foremost poets. Her works are known for their originality, versatility and indigenous flavor of the soil. Kamala Das has published many novels and short stories. In English and Malayalam under the name of '**Madhavikutty**'. Some of her works in English include the novel Alphabet of Lust. She is a sensitive writer who captures complexities subtleties of human relationships in lyrical Idiom. In ***My Mother at Sixty –six***' poet comment on the feelings of pain and anguish one feels for the aging parents. The whole poem is single sentence but, punctuated by commas.

Answer the following Questions:

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

Ans. When the poet sees the pale and corpse-like face of her mother, her old familiar pain or the ache returns. Perhaps she has entertained this fear since her childhood. Aging is a natural process. Time and aging spare none. Time and aging have not spared the poet's mother and may not spare her was well. With this aging, separation and death become inevitable.

1. Why are the young trees described as 'sprinting'?

A. The poet is driving to the Cochin air port, when she looks out side; the young trees seem to be walking past with them. With speed of the car they seem to be running faster sprinting. The poet presents' contrast-her 'dozing' old mother and the 'sprinting young trees.

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

A. The poet has brought in the image of merry children 'spilling out of their homes 'to present a contrast.. The merry children coming out of their homes in large numbers present an image of happiness and spontaneous overflow of life,. This image is a stark contrast to the 'dozing' old mother. Whose ashen face looks life less and pale like a corpse. She is an image of ageing decay and passivity. The contrast of the two images enhances the poetic effect.

3. Why has mother been compared to the 'late winter's moon'?

A. The poet's mother is sixty –six years old.Her shrunken 'ashen' face resembles a corpse. She has lost her shine and strength of youth. Similarly the late winter's moon looks hazy and obscure.It too lacks shine and strength. The comparison quite natural and appropriate. The simile used here is apt as well as effective.

4. What do the parting words of the poet and her smile signify?

A. The poet's parting words of assurance and her simile provides a stark contrast to the old familiar ache or fear of the childhood..Her words and smiles are a deliberate attempt to hide her real feelings. The parting words "see you soon Amma" gave an assurance to the old lady whose 'ashen face' looks like 'corpse'. Similarly her continues smiles are an attempt to overcome the ache and fear inside her heart.

Dear students,

Please note: When the lock down will get over buy a note copy write all the notes and learn. Also prepare the power point when you come to the school I want to see all these notes as well as your assignments. I will be taking test for you. You have to make the power points individually it is internal assessments for 20 mark.