

The Ball Poem

Previous Year Questions

Q.1. You have been chosen to address the student gathering from the nearby schools, to speak on "How to Deal with Loss Personal or Material". Prepare the speech draft in not more than 120 words, with reference to the commonality of themes in John Benyman's.

"The Ball Poem' and 'A Sermon at Benaras'.

You may begin this way.

Good Morning everyone. Today, I'd like to discuss two pieces of literature that offer a powerful insight into how we can learn to deal with loss.

You may end in this way -

To conclude, I'd like to say that -

Thank you.

Q.2. 'The Ball Poem' initially appears simple but it is actually quite impactful and intense. Comment upon the theme of "The Ball Poem'.

Q.3. You have been chosen to address the school assembly, to speak on the epistemology of loss and the resilience of the human spirit during times of crisis. Prepare the speech draft, with reference to the commonality of themes in 'The Ball Poem' by John Berryman and 'From the Diary of Anne Frank'.

You may begin this way:

Good morning everyone.

Today, I'd like to discuss two pieces of literature that offer a powerful insight into how to deal with loss and the resilience of the human spirit required during times of crisis.

You may end this way:

To conclude, I'd like to say that.....

Thank you.

Q.4. In a world of possessions. People will take Balls, balls will be lost always, little boy.
And no one buys a ball back. Money is external. He is learning, well behind his
desperate eyes, The epistemology of loss, how to stand up Knowing what every man
must one day know And most know many days, how to stand up.

(The Ball Poem)

(i) Fill in the blank with one word.

When the speaker says "People will take balls, Balls will be lost always, little boy", his
tone is_____

(ii) The poet says that money is external. What inference can be drawn from this
statement? Answer in about 40 words.

(iii) Which of the following best describes the speaker's attitude towards material pos-
sessions?

(A) indifferent

(B) emotional

(C) casual

(D) respectful

(iv) Identify the poetic device used in "And no one buys a ball back".

Q.5. Explain briefly the central idea of "The Ball Poem".

Q.6. The protagonist in 'The Ball Poem' and the young seagull in 'His First Flight' face chal-
lenges. Discuss with reference to the two texts.

Q.7. Read the following extract and answer the questions that follow :

What is the boy now, who has lost his ball,
What, what is he to do ? I saw it go
Merrily bouncing, down the street and then
Merrily over — there it is in the water !
No use to say 'O there are other balls'

(i) What does the expression 'what, what is he to do' denote ?

(a) loss of the ball

- (b) ask the poet for another ball
- (c) boy's grief over the loss of the ball
- (d) go down the street

(ii) State whether the following statement is True or False:

The poet was delighted to watch the ball bouncing down the street into the water.

(iii) The poet repeats the word 'what' in order to _____ .

(iv) There is no use to say 'O there are other balls' indicates that the poet feels that it would be _____ to console the boy.

- (a) helpful
- (b) futile
- (c) easy
- (d) shameful



(v) What is the boy now, who has lost his ball?

Which feeling is expressed in this line?

- (a) regret
- (b) cheer
- (c) despair
- (d) thrill

Q.8. 'He senses first responsibility' - What responsibility is referred to here ? (The Ball Poem)