

NCERT Solutions for Class 10 English: First Flight.

Chapter 3 (Poem)

The Ball Poem



Thinking about the poem (Page-47)

In pairs, attempt the following questions

Q 1. Why does the poet say, “I would not intrude on him”? Why doesn’t he offer him money to buy another ball?

Ans: The poet says “I will not intrude on him” because he wants boy to experience the loss. He does not offer him money to buy another ball because according to him, money or another ball is worthless. The boy was trying to understand his first responsibility as he had lost something, which could not be brought back.

Q 2. “... staring down/All his young days into the harbour where/His ball went...”

Do you think the boy has had the ball for a long time? Is it linked to the memories of days when he played with it?

Ans: Yes, it seems like the boy has had the ball for a long time. When it bounced into the water, all his memories of the days of childhood flashed in front of him. This led to a realisation that those moments would not come back, just like the ball. He can buy new balls and can similarly create new moments, but those that are gone would not return.

Q 3. What does “in the world of possessions” mean?

Ans: Here, “in the world of possessions” means the world where everything and every action is made to possess something, whether it is the possession of land, property, money, or any other thing. The poet suggests that losing a ball, which is a very small thing, would make the boy understand what it is like to lose something that one possessed. This would make the boy realise that this is a world of possessions and where one can possess more things by buying them, one cannot buy what has been lost.

Q 4. Do you think the boy has lost anything earlier? Pick out the words that suggest the answer.

Ans: No, it seems that the boy had not lost anything earlier. The words that suggest so are ‘senses first responsibility in a world of possessions’.

Q 5. What does the poet say the boy is learning from the loss of the ball? Try to explain this in your own words.

Ans: The poet suggests that from the loss of the ball, the boy is learning how to stand up in a world of possessions where he will lose things, will buy some more to replace the ones lost, but would never be able to buy back the thing that he had lost. He is sensing his first responsibility as he has lost the ball. The poet says that money is something external and what he really wants the boy to understand is the meaning of loss. The boy is learning that there are so many things in life that are to be lost and cannot be brought back and every man has to stand up after such losses, the boy too will learn how to stand up and leave the losses behind.



Q 6. Have you ever lost something you liked very much? Write a paragraph describing how you felt then, and saying whether — and how — you got over your loss.

Ans: Answers to this question requires you to use your own perspective as well as your analytical skills. These answer to the questions would vary from one person to another. It is suggested that you read the text carefully and try attempting it on your own.

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