



SHORT AND LONG QUESTIONS

1. What is the Tone of the Poem Dust of Snow?

Answer: The tone of “Dust of Snow” is light and cheerful. It reflects the change that has already taken place in the poet’s heart from sullen to joyful, after the shower of snowflakes upon himself. It is thus clear that this poem has been written post that experience. The poet has almost forgotten what a bad day he had been having and has embraced the brightening of his mood fully. He now feels lucky to be alive and able to watch such beautiful sights as that of the snowfall.

2. How many symbols do you find in this poem? What is the purpose to use those symbols?

Answer: In this poem, the poet has introduced three symbols; the hemlock tree, the crow and the dust of snow. Hemlock is the name of the poison that was used to kill Socrates. Hence, the hemlock tree is a symbol of death. Walking by the hemlock tree could, in fact, have seemed like an ill omen to the poet, and could have upset him further on this unpleasant day. Again, the crow is an ambiguous symbol and could stand for many things. Generally, the crow is considered to be the ugliest among all birds. Hence, it could be another sight to degrade the poet’s mood once again. The dust of snow is the symbol of natural joy and energy.

The poet uses two negative symbols to represent the negative aspects of mind. The shower of snow created by the crow certainly improves his mood. Perhaps the poet is saying that even something that one usually associates with negativity can have a positive impact. Hence, Frost’s use of symbols is very profound and meaningful.

3. What does the poet want to convey through the poem ‘Dust of Snow’?

Or

What is the central idea of the poem ‘Dust of Snow’?

Ans. In the poem ‘Dust of Snow’, the poet wants to convey that sometimes certain moments or actions which are simple have larger significance. They can change the mood or life of a person. The way a crow shakes down dust of snow on the poet inspires and gives him the idea to shake off his depressive thoughts, become cheerful and do something useful.

4. Why does the poet use such poetically uncommon bird and tree? What does it reflect?

Ans. The poet seems to be in a depressive and sorrowful mood. In such a mood, one cannot think of a sweet and beautiful side of nature. The harsh, bitter and poisonous images come to his mind. That is why he uses an uncommon, harsh, ugly crow and poisonous tree like hemlock.

5. Write a note on the setting of the poem.

Ans. The poem presents a perfect setting. There are four elements in the poem. All these four elements match one another. The snow stands for depression. The hemlock tree is a symbol of sadness. The crow considered ominous. The poet's mood was also sad. But suddenly the way in which the crow shook the hemlock tree and falling off the dust of snow. change the poet's mood.

6. Our attitude towards a situation evokes both negative and positive response. Analyse this with reference to the poem, 'Dust of Snow' to bring out the inherent valuable lessons.

Ans. Whatever situation life throws at us, it evokes both positive and negative responses. The poet, in the poem 'Dust of Snow,' was in a sorrowful mood. However, when a crow shook down the 'dust of snow' on him, his bitter mood changed into a more optimistic one. Now, being in a sorrowful or bad mood already, the poet could have got angry at the crow also. However, the dust of snow becomes a positive medium of change for him. It made him cheerful to some extent and helped him forget his sadness, at least for a few moments. Thus, we see that instead of seeing the negative aspect of a happening, one should see the positive aspect, and one's response may greatly affect the outcome of incidents.

REFERENCE TO CONTEXT

1. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow-

*The way a crow
Shook down on me
The dust of snow
From a hemlock tree*

i. Where was the crow sitting?

Ans. The crow was sitting on a branch of a hemlock tree.

ii. What did the crow do?

Ans. It shook off the dust of snow on the poet.

iii. What does the dust of snow stand for?

Ans. It stands for the poet's sadness.

iv. Name the poet and the poem.

Ans. Dust of Snow is the poem and Robert Frost is its poet.

2. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow-

*Has given my heart
A change of mood
And saved some part
Of a day I had rued.*

i. What was the poet's mood in the beginning?

Ans. The poet's mood was of sadness in the beginning.

ii. What changed the mood of the poet?

Ans. Sudden fall of dust of snow on him changed his poet.

iii. What does the poet mean when he says that 'And saved some part/Of a day'?

Ans. The poet's mood changed from sadness to happiness. It saved the rest of his day.

iv. Write the synonym of the word 'rued'.

Ans. regretted

3. The way a crow

Shook down on me The dust of snow From a hemlock tree Has given my heart A change of mood And saved some part Of a day I had rued

- (a) Where was the crow ?
- (b) What did it shake on the poet ?
- (c) What does the word, 'rued' mean ?
- (d) What is the poet's state of mind ?

Answer:

- (a) The crow was on a hemlock tree.
- (b) It shook dust of snow on the poet.
- (c) The word 'rued' means held in regret.
- (d) The poet was in a sad, depressive and hopeless mood that time.

4. The way a crow

Shook down on me

The dust of snow

From a hemlock tree

- (a) Where did the crow sit ?
- (b) We can say that the poet was
- (c) How did the crow change the poet's mood ?
- (d) What fell off from a humlock tree ?

Answer:

- (a) The crow sat on a branch of hemlock tree.
- (b) in a sad mood.
- (c) The crow changed the poet's mood by shaking down the dust of snow from a hemlock tree.
- (d) Dust of snow fell from a hemlock tree.

5. Has given my heart

A change of mood And saved some part Of a day I had rued.

- (a) Of what change does the poet mention here ?
- (b) Whose part of the day has been saved ?
- (c) What is the rhyme scheme of the passage ?
- (d) Who is the poet ?

OR

- (a) What had given the poet 'a change of mood' ?
- (b) What did the poet think of that day ?
- (c) What did the crow do to the hemlock tree ?
- (d) Name the poet of the poem.

Answer:

- (a) The poet mentions the change of mood here.
- (b) The poet's part of the day has been saved.
- (c) The rhyme scheme of the passage is ab ab.
- (d) Robert Frost is the poet.

OR

- (a) The falling of dust of snow gave the poet 'a change of mood'.
- (b) The poet earlier wasted that day, but later revived the spirit to realize the rest of the day.

- (c) The crow shook the hemlock tree.
(d) The poet is 'Robert Frost'.

MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS

1. Who shook down the hemlock tree?

- (A) crow (B) cuckoo
(C) mynah (D) parrot

Ans. (A) a crow

2. Which tree did the crow shake?

- (A) mango (B) mapple
(C) hemlock (D) oak

Ans. (C) hemlock

3. What fell on the poet?

- (A) dust of tree (B) dust of snow
(C) dust of rain (D) dust of crow

Ans. (B) dust of snow

4. In what mood was the poet earlier?

- (A) happy (B) good
(C) pleasant (D) sad

Ans. (D) sad

5. What was the effect of the fall of the dust of snow on the poet?

- (A) changed his mood (B) changed his luck
(C) changed his job (D) changed his colour

Ans. (A) changed his mood

6. What was saved for the poet?

- (A) crow (B) tree
(C) some part of the day (D) snow

Ans. (C) some part of the day

7. Under which tree was the poet standing?

- (A) oak (B) hemlock
(C) maple (D) pine

Ans. (B) hemlock

8. Who is the poet of the poem 'Dust of Snow'?

- (A) Robert Frost (B) Robert Browning
(C) William Wordsworth (D) John Keats

Ans. (A) Robert Frost

Dust of Snow Summary

The poem has a setting where the poet is under a hemlock tree. The poem takes place in the winter season and the poet also happens to be in a foul mood. The poet was having a miserable day for unknown reasons. A crow happens to fling snow dust on him as he is standing under the tree. This snow dust that fell on him immediately made him feel better. The crow and the hemlock tree helped him get through the remaining portion of his day, which had already been spent in a foul mood.

Crows and hemlock trees are frequently associated with bad circumstances or bad luck. Hemlock trees are poisonous. Instead of using a more beautiful tree like maple or oak, the poet uses a hemlock to portray his bad mood. A hemlock tree being poisonous, is thus considered to be bad. He also does not use different birds like a sparrow and nightingale, which are more associated with positivity and beauty. On the other hand, a crow is often seen as an indicator of doom and fear.

The irony in this situation is that the poet utilized them to illustrate how happy things may come even from negative references. A movement from the crow sitting on the branch of the hemlock tree happened to throw some dust of snow on the poet. The poet has shown that both the hemlock tree and the crow which are usually used to represent sadness and negativity uplifted his awful mood. The action of snow falling on the poet immediately uplifted his mood and made him more appreciative of life. Similar to using the hemlock tree and crow to bring a positive impact, the dust of snow which is regarded as useless is the reason the poet has an uplift in his bad mood. He realized that his sorrow and bad mood were petty and insignificant in front of the beauty and healing of nature.

Crow

Crows are usually used to represent death or despair in literature, but the poet has cleverly utilised the same crow as a bringer of joy and hope in life. The very crow is the reason the snow fell on the poet which made him have a better mood immediately.

Theme of the Poem

The theme of the story is that even small and seemingly unimportant events in life can have their own impact on one's mood. The theme of the story is that even small and seemingly unimportant events in life can have their own impact on one's mood. The poem focuses on inculcating the importance of gratefulness and lesser attitude that indicates us taking things for granted. It's a poem of gratitude and morals that the kids need and should be able to understand from their young age.

Conclusion

The poem "Dust of snow by Robert Frost" shows us to appreciate even the small things that we take for granted in life. The poet shows us that even small and insignificant acts can help uplift our mood and make us forget about our problems. The poet also shows that nature is a great healer of wounds and bad moods. Observing the beauty and serenity of nature can bring peace of mind and also make us appreciate our life better.

The poet shows us that being in the presence of nature and observing the serenity of nature itself can be very rewarding for an individual. The unpredictable and beautiful features of nature can be healing for someone who is having a bad day or going through a terrible thought.

OVERVIEW OF THE DUST OF SNOW BY ROBERT FROST

The poem is short yet very beautifully written. In the poem, the poet talks about the importance of even small things in life and how they can affect one's mood.

The poet has beautifully represented the healing power of nature and how nature can uplift a bad mood. The poet himself is having such a bad day when a small action of the dust of snow falling on him makes him realize how petty his problems are. This in turn uplifts his mood and makes him better appreciate the beauty and serenity of nature.

The poem features a hemlock tree and a crow. Both of which are associated with sorrow and despair. This is a clever utilization of the author to show how his mood that day was also sorrowful and full of despair.

Literary devices used in Dust of Snow by Robert Frost

Analysis of Literary Devices in “Fire and Ice”

Writers and poets use Literary Devices to bring uniqueness and depth in the simple texts. They also allow multiple interpretations of the texts. Robert Frost has also used some literary devices in this poem. The analysis of some of the literary devices used in this poem is given below: -

- a) **Assonance:** Assonance is the repetition of vowel sounds in the same line such as the long sound of /o/ in “I hold with those who favor fire”.
- b) **Alliteration:** Alliteration is the repetition of consonant sounds in the same line such as the sound of /f/ in “I hold with those who favor fire”.
- c) **Imagery:** Imagery is used to make readers perceive things involving their five senses. For example, “Some say the world will end in fire” and “To say that for destruction ice, is also great”.
- d) **Symbolism:** Symbolism is a use of symbols to signify ideas and qualities, by giving them symbolic meanings different from their literal meanings. “Fire” is the symbol of desires and “Ice” symbolizes hatred. Similarly, “green” and “gold” are the symbol of beauty and happiness.
- e) **Anaphora:** It refers to the repetition of a word or expression in the first part of some verses. For example,
“Some say the world will end in fire,
Some say in ice.”
- f) **Personification:** Personification is to give human qualities to inanimate objects. In this poem, “Fire” and “Ice” are capable of destruction. Therefore, the poet personifies fire and ice by giving them a mind which is capable of destroying almost anything.