



## INDIAN SCHOOL AL WADI AL KABIR

<b>CLASS: VI</b>	<b>Department: ENGLISH</b>	<b>Date of submission: August 2023</b>
<b>ANSWER KEY NO: 11</b>	<b>Topic: Adrift! A Little Boat Adrift! (Poem-ER)</b>	<b>Note: English Notebook</b>

### Adrift! A Little Boat Adrift!

*A Poem on Hope*

**-By Emily Dickinson**



#### **I. Questions & Answers:**

1. What is the poem about?

**Ans:** The poem is about a little boat that wishes for a sailor to guide it towards the shore of the nearest town. Sailors report that it sinks as night approaches. Angels report that it sails on afresh with new masts. There is a deeper meaning too. The poem tells how man's soul enjoys a new journey in Heaven after the body dies on earth.

2. What does the speaker mean by the word 'dusk'?

**Ans:** Literally, the word 'dusk' means 'evening', a period of time that signals the end of the day. It also means nearing the end of one's life symbolically.

3. Explain the second stanza of the poem focusing on the journey of the boat.

**Ans:** The little boat gave up its struggle to stay afloat and sank in the waters in the evening. Symbolically this means that the man stopped breathing and died.

4. Why is the boat 'exultant' at the end of the poem?

**Ans:** At the end, the boat is victorious because man's soul starts afresh on a new journey after death.

5. The speaker metaphorically compares human beings to a ‘little boat’ floating without a guide at sea. Explain.

**Ans:** The poet says that the ‘little man’ floats aimlessly throughout the day and wishes for a guide only when the night is near. Similarly, man forgets about God as he moves through life. It is only when he feels death approaching that he prays to have God as his guide.

## II. Think & Answer

1. In a way, being adrift at sea is a lot like being alone without company. What do you think the poem tells us about the state of being alone when we feel that society is far away?

**Ans:** We feel the need for God’s help when we are away from friends and family.

2. An allegory is a story or poem with two meanings-one on the surface, and another hidden as symbols or ideas. Would you say this poem is an allegory? Give reasons.

**Ans:** This poem is an allegory because it has two stories. The poem is about a little boat and its journey but the hidden story is about man and his journey.

## POETIC DEVICES

**Rhyme scheme-** abcb dbeb dfggf

**Rhyming words** – down-town-brown, red-spel, gales-sails

**Symbolism** – Symbolism in literature is a tool of figurative language where an image, object, idea or symbol is used to represent something other than its literal meaning.

Examples from the poem:

dawn – arising of the sun – life, and birth

dusk – nightfall – death

little boat – human soul



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