

My mother at sixty-six

Poetry section

Textual question & answers :

Think it out :

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

Ans : It is a kind of old familiar pain that the poet has entertained since her childhood. This is the fear of decay and death that spare none. With ageing separation and death become unavoidable. In case of the poet's mother also it is true.

Q.2. Why are young trees described as ' sprinting ' ? Or, What do the young sprinting signify in the poem ?

Ans : Whenever we travel by a fast-running vehicle the standing objects go whirling past. So, the trees are described in that way. They provide a stark contrast to the passive old lady sitting inside the car.

Q.3. Why has the poet brought in the image of the merry children 'spilling out of their homes' ?

Ans : The poet brought the image in, to enhance the poetic effect. Her mother is lifeless, passive and pale. On the other hand, outside the car the world is full of movement, life and happiness. The joyous children, coming out in large number are in contrast to the sad, lifeless, painful figure of poet's mother.

Q.4. Why has the mother been compared to the late winter's moon ?

Ans : The poet's mother's face is pale like ash. It has lost all the brightness and power like the moon of the late winter. So she has been compared to the moon.

Q.5. What do the parting words of the poet and her smile signify ?

Ans : When the poet feels the familiar fear of death and decay of her mother, she understands that with ageing separation and death are unavoidable. Therefore, one day her mother will also die. To hide this fear of inevitable separation she bids good bye to her mother with smiles. Her smile signifies her acceptance of the reality.

Q.6. Describe the poetic devices used by the poet Kamala Das in 'My mother At sixty-six '?

Ans : Kamala Das 'My Mother At Sixty-six' is rich in imagery - The use of smile is very effective. Colour of her face has been described as that of a corpse. The wan pale face of the mother is compared with late

winter's Moon. Such in the contrasting picture of the poet's mother.