

Question and Answer of: The Ball Poem

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 does not want to intrude so that the boy can get a chance to learn the real truth of life. He has to learn to accept the loss. The loss here means the most important thing or relationship in his life.

Q.2. What does "in the world of possessions" mean?

Ans. In the world of possessions means that the world is full of materialistic things. Materialistic things are those things which bring comfort and luxury in our life. 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.

Q.3. What does the poet say the boy is learning from the loss of ball.

Ans. The poet says that the boy is learning to cope up with the loss of the ball. He will learn the real truth of life and will learn how to move on in life despite of incurring heavy losses. Everyone experiences this in his/her life when they lose either something or someone. This harsh reality that lost things never come back makes people strong enough to live their life by accepting this truth of life.

Q.4. How does the boy feel at the loss of his ball??

Ans. The boy is very much upset at the loss of his ball. He experiences grief at the loss of his much loved possession. The ball is here symbolic of the sweet memories of his childhood. The boy loses his ball and watches it bouncing down the street into the water. The boy is deeply affected by the loss of his ball because it has been with him for long time when the ball bounces into the water all his memories of the childhood days flashes in front of him.

Q.5. "Money is external". What does the poet mean by this expression?

Ans. The poet makes the boy understand about his responsibility as the loss is in material. Not every loss can be replaced by money. Money is external as it cannot buy memories, nor can it replace the things that we love, the things that really matter. Money cannot provide any relief from this situation like bringing our loved ones from the clutches of death etc. Hence we should stop running madly after money and remember loss is inevitable and everyone should learn to cope up with the loss, with patience and courage.

Extra Question:

1. What does the poet - John Berryman want to convey through this poem?
2. Why it is important for everyone to experience loss and to stand up after it?

ATQ's - Extract Based Questions.

1. 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'!

Ques 1. Where did the ball go?

2. Write the synonyms of Merrily.

3. What does the expression - "No use to say - 'O there are other balls' mean"?

(a) It is a big loss. (b) Insignificant loss

(c) Will buy new ball (d) Loss is of major consequence

4. The expression 'what, what is he to do'?

(a) loss of ball (b) further action of boy

(c) boy's grief over loss of ball.

(d) feels happy.

2. He is learning, well behind his desperate eyes, the
epistemology of loss, how to stand up knowing what
everyman must one day know, And must know many days
how to stand up.

Ques 1. How are the boy's eyes?

(a) Sparkling (b) Dull (c) Desperate (d) Happy.

2. The boy is learning - - - - -

3. The word 'Epistemology' means ...

4. What message does the poet convey in this poem?

(a) No use crying over loss.

(b) Must learn to live with loss.

(c) Money can buy everything.

(d) Both (a) and (b)