

Poem.3 The Quarrel

Summary of the Poem

The fight was about a small issue, so small that the poet could not even remember. They kept arguing over the issue. The fight, which started on a minor note, turned out to be a big clash at the end. Both of them said that each one of them is right. They blamed each other for the issue.

The poet and her brother began to hate each other. They did not want to see each other. They spent the entire afternoon without any interaction.

Out of sudden, the poet's brother came and patted on poet's back, saying they cannot continue like this. Her brother decided to end the quarrel and make up with the poet. Her brother suggested that they should patch up and move forward. He accepted this mistake and the poet also moved on.

Stanzawise Explanation of The Poem

Stanza 1

I quarrelled with my brother
I don't know what about,
One thing led to another
And somehow we fell out.
The start of it was slight,
He said he was right,
I knew he was wrong!

Reference The above lines have been taken from the poem 'The Quarrel'. It has been written by Eleanor farjeon, where talks about a quarrel between siblings which is common in day-to-day life. These quarrels do not last long and soon the children patch up.

Context The poet had a fight with her brother over a small issue. Both of them were adamant they were right and blamed each other for the quarrel.

Explanation The poet had an argument with her brother over a petty issue. She cannot even remember the reason for the quarrel. The quarrel started on a minor note, but turned into a tough flight. The poet's brother said that he was right, but according to the poet her brother was wrong and should be blamed for the fight.

Stanza 1

We hated one another.

The afternoon turned black.

Then suddenly my brother

Thumped me on the back,

And said, "Oh, come along!

We can't go on all night____

I was in the wrong."

So he was in the right.

Reference Same as in stanza 1

Context After the quarrel, the poet and her brother started hating each other. But the poet's brother came forward to patch up the matter. The dispute was resolved at the end. The poet and her brother forgot the matter and moved on.

Explanation The poet and his brother hated each other after the quarrel. The afternoon remained unpleasant. Out of sudden, the poet's brother came to her and patted on her back, saying they could not continue to behave like that. They should now patch up and move on. He accepted his mistake and the matter was resolved.

NCERT Corner

Working with the poem

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1. With your partner try to guess the meaning of the underlined phrases.

(i) And somehow we fell out.

(ii) The afternoon turned black

(i) Fell out – quarrelled

(ii) Turned black – was spoiled due to bad mood

2. Read these lines from the poem.

(i) One thing led to another

(ii) The start of it was slight

(iii) The end of it was strong

(iv) The afternoon turned black

(v) Thumped me on the back

Discuss with your partner what these lines mean

The fight continued, one after the other argument

- (i) The cause behind the quarrel was a very minor issue.
- (ii) The quarrel ended on a very bitter note.
- (iii) The quarrel spoiled their mood and the afternoon became unpleasant.
- (iv) Patted on the back in a friendly manner.

3. Describe a recent quarrel that you have had with your brother, sister or friend.

How did it start? What did you quarrel about? How did it end?

My sister is my best friend and helps me solve all my problems. But one day, we had an argument when I told her to do my homework as I was feeling lethargic.

She told me to do it myself. We continued with our fight and did not talk to each other for 5 days. I told my mother about the fight. My mother said that it was my mistake and I should apologise. I approached my sister and resolved the issue by saying sorry.

Chapter Practice

Very short Answer Type questions

1. What was the reason behind the quarrel?

They were fighting over a minor issue which the poet could not even remember.

2. Who took the initiative to resolve the matter?

The poet's brother took the initiative to resolve the matter and approached the poet.

3. Why did the afternoon turn out to be black?

The afternoon turned out to be black because the poet and her brother were in a bad mood

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Short Answer Type questions

1. Why did the quarrel continue till afternoon?

The quarrel continued till the afternoon because they blamed each other for the fight. The brother insisted that he was right while the poet said her brother was wrong. The afternoon turned out to be unpleasant.

2. 'Oh! Come along! We can't go on all night'. Who said the above lines and why?

The poet's brother said the above lines because they had a fight and in order to resolve the matter he said the above lines.

Value Based Questions

Why one should not continue with a quarrel?

A quarrel should not continue for a long because it is always a harm for a relationship it may create misunderstandings which may lead to an end of a good relation. It is preferable to find a solution and to bring a quarrel to an end.

Extract Based Questions

Directions (Q.Nos.1-6) Read the extract given below and answer the following questions.

I quarreled with my brother

I don't know what about,

One thing led another

And somehow we fell out.

The start of it was slight,

The end of it was storing,

He said he was right.

I knew he was wrong!

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1. Who quarreled with his/her brother in the above lines?

The poet quarreled with her brother in the above lines?

2. What led to the fight?

The poet could not remember the reason behind the fight. One argument after the other led to the fight. The issue was minor only.

3. Who said he was right in the given lines?

The poet's brother said he was right in the given line.

4. Write synonym for the word 'slight'

- (a) Major
- (b) Huge
- (c) Fight
- (d) Minor

5. Give antonym for the word 'strong'

- (a) Tough
- (b) Weak
- (c) Start
- (d) End

6. Meaning of the word 'fell out' will be.....

- (a) to fall down
- (b) to jump
- (c) to quarrel
- (d) None of the above



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