



Grade IX

Lesson 10

A Slumber Did My Spirit Seal

- William Wordsworth

Poetry

Soul of the poem

This eight-line poem is about the death of a loved one. The poet is grieved and troubled. But he realises the reality of life after her death. He feels a great peace. He is contented as the passing of time will no longer affect her. The poet says that his loved one is no more in the world. She has gone into deep slumber. Now the earthly movements will not affect her. She can neither see nor feel the worldly affairs. She is in peace and has become part of nature.

NCERT Questions

Thinking About the Poem

I. 1. "A slumber did my spirit seal," says the poet. That is, a deep sleep 'closed off' his soul (or mind). How does the poet react to his loved one's death? Does he feel bitter grief? Or does he feel a great peace?

The poet was shocked on the death of his beloved. He was very sad. He feels bitter grief. But after some realisation, he feels a great peace. He is contented that the passing of time will no longer affect her. She is in peace and has become part of nature.



2. The passing of time will no longer affect her, says the poet. Which lines of the poem say this?

The poet's beloved is dead. Initially, the poet was too sad to think of anything. Then he realized that the beloved is now unaffected by the passing time. The line that could not feel the touch of earthly years says this.

3. How does the poet imagine her to be, after death? Does he think of her as a person living in a very happy state (a 'heaven')? Or does he see her now as a part of nature? In which lines of the poem do you find your answer?

The poet imagines her to be in peace after death. She has gone in a deep sleep away from all the worldly affairs. Now the passing of time will have no effect on her. She is now part of nature. The lines are:

'No motion has she now, no force

She neither hears nor sees,

Solved Question Bank

Reference-to-Context Question

Q. Read the following extract carefully and answer the questions that follow.

1. A Slumber did my spirit seal -

I had no human fears.

She seemed a thing that could not feel

The touch of earthly years.

a. A deep _____ had sealed the poet's spirit.

Sleep

b. In the above stanza, there are _____ characters.

Two



c. In line 3 the literary device is metaphor.

(True/False)

False

d. 'She seemed a thing'. 'She' has been used for _____.

The poet's beloved

2. No motion has she now, no force -

She neither hears nor sees,

Rolled round in earth's diurnal course

With rocks and stones and trees.

a. The poet accepts that she is _____.

No more/dead

b. She is now buried under the _____.

Earth

c. She will assimilate into the earth and is rotating along the earth. True/False

True

d. _____ is the word in the stanza which means 'daily'.

'Diurnal'

Short Answer Questions

1. What changes did the sleep bring in the poet's feelings?

The poet was very sad on his beloved's death. He was shocked. But the sleep brought peace to his mind. He realised that his beloved had become part of nature and would always remain around him.

2. What is the central theme of the poem?

The poet wants to convey the idea that death separates our loved ones from us but they always remain around us in the form of nature. We should not be grief-stricken at the death.



3. 'She seemed a thing that could not feel the touch of earthly years.' Who is 'she'? Why could she not feel the touch of earthly years?

'She' stands for the beloved of the poet. The poet is shocked on her death. He says that time will have no effect on her. She is beyond all earthly affairs. He is contented that at least now she is happy.

4. 'No motion has she now, no force'. Who is 'she'? Why is 'she' motionless? What does it show about the poet's state of mind?

'She' stands for the beloved of the poet. She is dead. The poet feels that she had become part of nature. She is in peace. There is no motion and force. The poet is in a disturbed state of mind.

5. 'Rolled round in earth's diurnal course.' Explain.

The earth's revolution around the sun is called earth's diurnal course. The poet's beloved has become part of nature and she will also revolve along with the earth. The poet is satisfied that her beloved is in peace.



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