

Tender Heart High School, Sector 33 B Chandigarh

Subject: English Literature

Class: V

Chapter: 12 Poem “These Old Shoes”

Poet’s Name: Tony Mitton

Good morning students,

Today let us read and understand the poem “These Old Shoes” which is written by Tony Mitton, Chapter-12 in your English Reader.

This poem by Tony Mitton talks about a pair of old shoes. The poet describes how these shoes have been a big part of his life and all the things they have done with him. It’s a simple but touching poem about memories and letting go.

Stanza 1

These old shoes have scuffs and stains.

They’ve trudged through snow and pelting rains.

The poet starts by telling us that the shoes are old and worn out. They have marks (scuffs and stains) because they’ve been used a lot. They’ve walked through tough weather like snow and heavy rain.

Stanza 2

They’ve tramped their way to school each dawn.

And now they’re wrinkled, lined and worn.

The shoes have been used for walking to school every morning. Now, they’ve become old, wrinkled, and worn out because of all the walking and use over time.

Stanza 3

But these old shoes have danced with glee.

They’ve clambered up our Climbing Tree.

The shoes have also been part of happy times. They’ve danced when the poet felt joyful and climbed trees during fun, adventurous moments.

Stanza 4

They may have cracks and fraying laces.

But these old shoes have won at races.

Even though the shoes are now damaged, with cracks and worn-out laces, they remind the poet of the times he ran and won races. This shows the shoes helped him succeed too.

Stanza 5

They’re down at heel with thinning soles.

But once these shoes were scoring goals.

The shoes are in bad condition now, with worn-out heels and soles. But the poet remembers when he wore them to play games and score goals, showing they were part of exciting and proud moments.

Stanza 6

*They've pushed at pedals, trod the street.
They've tapped in time to music's beat.*

The poet talks about how the shoes were used for many things—cycling, walking on streets, and even tapping to the rhythm of music while dancing or enjoying songs.

Stanza 7

*They've stood at bus-stops for an age.
They've stamped in puddles (and with rage).*

The shoes also stayed with the poet in regular, everyday situations, like waiting at bus stops for a long time. Sometimes, the poet stamped in puddles for fun—or out of frustration when feeling angry.

Stanza 8

*And if I listed all they'd done,
this poem would simply run and run.*

The poet says that the shoes have been part of so many activities that it would take forever to list them all. This shows how much the shoes have been through.

Stanza 9-10

*But though they once were bright and neat,
and though they've stoutly served my feet,
they're battered now and much too tight,
and so it's time to say goodnight.*

The poet remembers how the shoes used to look new and clean when he first got them. They've been great, but now they are too old and small for him, so he decides it's time to let them go.

Stanza 11

*Let's lift the lid from off the bin
and gently, softly drop them in.*

Finally, the poet puts the shoes in the trash bin. Even though it's sad to say goodbye, he does it gently because he values all the memories attached to them.

Main Idea of the Poem

The poem is about how even small things, like a pair of shoes, can be a big part of our lives. The poet talks about the fun, hard, and exciting moments the shoes have been through. But as time passes, we have to let go of old things, even if they were special.

Moral of the Poem

This poem teaches us to cherish memories and appreciate the things that help us in life, even when it's time to say goodbye to them. It also reminds us that change and letting go are a natural part of life.