

Class - VIITeacher - Ms JaswinderSubject - English LiteraturePoem - Footprints in the Sand

Good morning students

Today we will be doing the poem 'Footprints in the Sand' as a part of your English Literature assignment which will be submitted to you on dated 11th July 2022. All the students are requested to open page number 19 of your English Literature book titled 'New Trends in English Reader'. Students, keep your practice notebook ready as during this lesson you will be asked a few questions in order to check your understanding of the topic.

Students now pay attention as I am going to explain you the poem 'Footprints in the Sand'.

Introduction

'Footprints in the Sand' is written by Mary Stevenson during second world war. Many other people have also claimed to have penned this poem so the poet's name is not mentioned in the book. It is an allegorical religious poem. This poem describes that God is always with us specially in difficult time. This poem gives us hope when we are in trouble. Through this poem the poet tells us that God will never leave us alone especially during our hard time.

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Poem - Footprints in the Sand

Stanza wise Summary of the Poem

★ Stanza - 1

⇒ One night I - - - - - One of my Lord.

In first stanza the poet describes that one night she saw in her dream, she was walking on the seashore with her lord. She says that suddenly all the scenes of her life flashed across the sky, the scenes of joy and the scenes of sorrow of her life. When she was walking on the seashore in all the scenes she noticed that there were two sets of footprints. She says that one pair of footprints belonged to her whereas the other pair of footprints was of her Lord. So she found in her dream that God is always with her in all the scenes of her life. In the first stanza the poet describes her dream in which she found herself walking on the beach with God.

★ Stanza - 2

After the last scene - - - - - one set of footprints

In the second stanza the poet describes that when she was watching all the

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Scenes of her life flashed across the sky in her dream. She looked that in many of the scenes there was only one set of footprints appeared on the sand. Then she looked, the scenes of her life when she was in the most difficult times and she was passing through the most troublesome situation, she found only one set of footprints. In the second stanza the poet found that in her lowest and saddest time there was only one set of footprints in the sand. She was surprised to notice this and she wanted to know the reason behind it. She was curious to know that why there was only one set of footprints appeared in the sand during her hard time.

- Students, now let us take a short break in order to check your understanding of the poem. You will be asked a few questions, after listening to the questions, you may pause the audio for three minutes to write your answers.

Q1. What does the poet see in her dream?

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Q2. Where is the poet walking and with whom?

Q3. What does she notice in the sand in her dream?

Q4. Why was she surprised?

Q5. What was she curious to know about?

Q6. When did she find only one pair of footprints?

Students, three minutes break is over now we will continue with the poem.

★ Stanza - 3

⇒ This really troubled - - - - - would leave me.

In the third stanza the poet says that she was very sad to find only one set of footprints visible in the sand during her most troublesome times. When she saw only one pair of footprints she was very much disappointed and she wanted to ask God about it. She was curious to know about the reason behind it. So in this stanza she asked a question to God that when "I decided to follow you,

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Good you said that you will always with me and you will never ever leave me in any situation, specially in the most difficult times when I was in great need I found only one set of footprints. The poet asked God that she was unable to understand why would he leave her when she needed him the most. So in this stanza the poet asked God why did he leave her alone when she was passing through the lowest and saddest times!

Stanza - 4

He whispered, ----- I carried you. In the fourth and last stanza God whispered in the poet's ear, you are my precious child and I always love you my child, I never ever leave you in your difficult times. God says that I am always with you in any situation. specially when you are in the most troublesome times. God tells the poet when you saw only one set of footprints in your saddest times that time I was carrying you in my lap so you found only my footprints on the sand as you were carried by me. So you are not alone in your hard time my child.

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- Alright students you have been given the stanza-wise summary of the poem. Now you all are required to revise the content carefully and attempt exercise I-A (i-viii) in your English Literature notebook as a part of your home assignment. Thank you.

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