

TENDER HEART HIGH SCHOOL, SEC. 33B, CHD.

SUBJECT : ENGLISH LITERATURE

CLASS : IX

POEM : I REMEMBER, I REMEMBER

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Extract 1.

- (i) The poet recalls his childhood in nostalgic mood. He laments the loss of his childhood as he feels that the childhood period is a blissful period without cares and worries while the adulthood is full of stress and tension.
- (ii) The sun is personified here. It is presented as a living being. The memory of the window of his house through which the sun would peep and wake him up. As the sun is personified here so punctuality is associated with it which is a common characteristic of a human being. The sun rises at the same time. It never rises too early nor too late. It also symbolises the comforting predictability of life in the poet's childhood. So poet punctuality is associated with the sun here.
- (iii) The poet wishes that he should have died in his childhood, as that would have prevented him from experiencing so much tension and stress of adulthood. He wishes ^{that} the night should have ended his life by 'taking his breath' so that his blissful childhood period would never end and he would have ^{been} spared from facing the harsh realities of the present day life.
- (iv) The poet compares and contrasts the two periods of his life. His childhood was full of cheerfulness and freedom while his adulthood is full of despair,

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tension and boredom.

- (iv) The poet views swinging in his childhood as an act of sheer ecstasy and freedom. The gush of air he felt on his face then was as fresh as it must have been to the flying swallows. In other words he always wondered if the swallows also felt the same rush of air while flying as he had experienced.

Extract 2.

- (i) The poet has wished that he should have died in his childhood because that was the only time when he was absolutely happy and tension free.
- (ii) Flowers, as seen by the poet in his childhood, looked so bright and dazzling as if they were made of light itself. At present he can imagine the flowers and feel they are not real and are merely a flint of light, representing his present depressed state.
- (iii) Laburnum is a tree which was planted by the poet's brother. It was small in size with hanging branches of yellow flowers. The poet feels excited on recalling it was still alive as nature is perennial whereas humans are mortal. He also feels excited on recalling that it was planted on one of his birthdays by his brother.
- (iv) The poet used to get thrilled as he moved on a swing in his childhood. This thrill also reminds us of childhood's energy and vigour as it was a period of freedom. At present it seems impossible for him to free himself from the burden of reason and rationality.

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- (V) The poet refers to the fir treetops because in his childhood he used to think that these tree tops were very close to the sky. That 'childish ignorance' he has lost at the cost of his so called wisdom in his adulthood. The joy is the belief that heaven was in the reach of the top branches of the fir trees i.e. ignorance being bliss here.

EXTRACT 3:

- (ii) The poet's brother planted a laburnum on his birthday. The fact that turns him nostalgic is the harsh reality of life that the plant was still living or alive after so many years even. Whereas he is surrounded by so many complexities of his adulthood.
- (iii) The poet would feel ecstatic, thrilled and free on a swing.
- (iii) In childhood, one is totally happy, excited, curious and free from all cares and worries. In adulthood, one is full of tensions, anxieties and apprehensions. In childhood one is ignorant. In adulthood one gains knowledge but loses natural cheerfulness and flights of fancy.
- (iv) In the last line of the stanza the poet wants to say that no escapism can prevent him from the present harsh realities of life because whenever he is reminded of his adulthood life he always feels tensed and worried which is always reflected on his brow.
- (V) Yes, the poet wants to escape from the present harsh realities of life because he always feels anxious and worried.
- * (iv) In adulthood the poet's life is full of fever of

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cares and worries, which no cool waters in the summer pools can bring down. In other words, nobody can escape from adulthood cares and worries as they are a part and parcel of one's life.

EXTRACT 4 :

- (i) The poet recalls his childhood in a sentimental and nostalgic state of mind. The cares and worries of adulthood has made him nostalgic about his childhood when life was quite cheerful and carefree.
- (ii) The childhood viewpoint was that the tops of fir trees were so tall as to touch the sky.
- (iii) The poet views his adult wisdom no better than his childhood ignorance. With his so-called wisdom he now finds himself more distant from heaven than he was in his boyhood.
- (iv) The poet finds little joy in the realization that now as a grown man he is more distant from God than he was as a boy.
- (v) The rhyme scheme used here is abcbdefe.

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