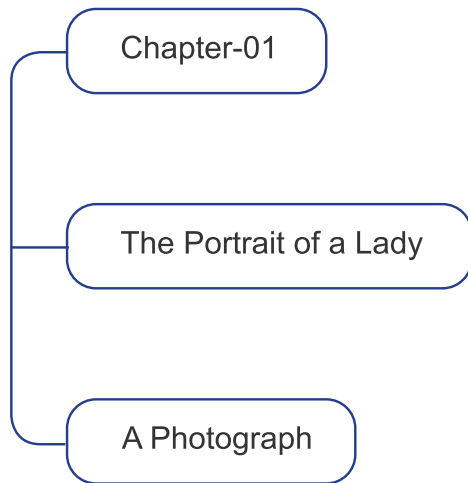


The Portrait of a Lady A Photograph



Khushwant Singh



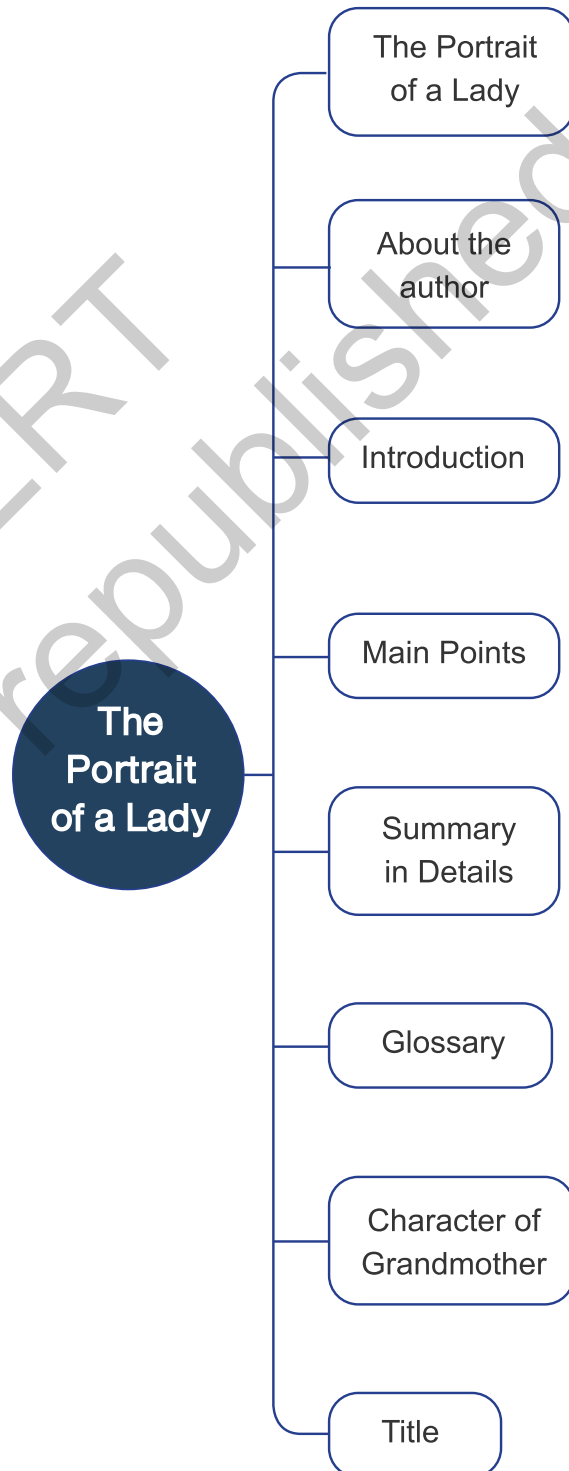
changes. In other words, the story is a loving tribute from a grandson to his grandmother. The story gives a picture of human relationships. It is a realistic account of how the grandparents give all their time, attention and love to their grandchildren.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

1. Name: Khushwant Singh
2. Lifetime: born 2 February 1915 – died 20 March 2014
3. Nationality: Indian
4. Occupation: Indian author, lawyer, diplomat, journalist and politician
5. Famous Works: *Train to Pakistan*, *The History of Sikhs*, *The Voice of God and Other Stories*, *I Shall Not Hear the LoNightingale*, *Black Jasmine*
6. Awards: Padma Bhushan, Padma Vibhushan, Sahitya Akademi Fellowship, The Grove Press Award

INTRODUCTION

‘The Portrait of a Lady’ is part of an autobiography by Khushwant Singh. In this story, the author draws a pen portrait of his grandmother. He beautifully unfolds their relationship and how it undergoes several



MAIN POINTS

1. The narrator's grandmother had been old and wrinkled for twenty years.
2. She had always been short, fat and slightly bent.
3. She moved about the house in spotless white clothes.
4. Her one hand rested on her waist to balance her stoop.
5. With the other hand she was always telling the beads of her rosary.
6. The grandmother and the narrator were good friends.
7. His parents left him with her when they went to live in the city.
8. She woke him up in the morning and got him ready for school.
9. She went to school with him because the school was attached to the temple.
10. The narrator's parents sent for them to the city.
11. It was a turning-point in their friendship.
12. My grandmother didn't like the English school, nor did she like science and music being taught at the new school.
13. As the years rolled by, they saw less of each other.
14. When the narrator went up to University, the common link of their friendship was broken.
15. From sunrise to sunset, she sat by her wheel spinning and reciting prayers.
16. Only in the afternoon did she relax for a while to feed the sparrows.
17. Hundreds of little birds collected around her. It was the happiest half-hour of the day.
18. She came to see him off at the railway station when the narrator went abroad for further studies.
19. Silently she kissed his forehead. The narrator thought that it was his last meeting with her.
20. After five years when he came back home, she received him at the station.
21. She looked the same as earlier.
22. She collected the women of the neighbourhood.
23. She celebrated the homecoming of her grandson by thumping an old drum and singing songs. She even forgot to pray.
24. She overtired herself and fell ill.
25. She told me that her end was quite near.
26. She lay peacefully in bed, praying and telling her beads. She died in the afternoon. Her dead body was put on a stretcher.

27. Thousands of sparrows sat scattered on the floor.
28. There was no chirruping by them. They were really mourning.
29. The narrator's mother threw small crumbs of bread to the sparrows. But the sparrows took no notice of them.
30. They flew away quietly when her dead body was carried off.

SUMMARY IN DETAILS

The Author Remembers his Grandmother and Grandfather

The author recalls his grandmother as a very old lady. For the twenty years that the author had known his grandmother, he had found her old and wrinkled.

It was hard for him to believe that she had once been young and pretty and she had a husband. Khushwant Singh's grandfather's portrait hung on the wall of the drawing room. He wore a big turban. His clothes were loose. He looked at least a hundred years old. Looking at his portrait, one could not imagine him in his youth with his wife and children.

लेखक ने अपनी दादी और दादा को याद किया

लेखक अपनी दादी को एक बहुत बूढ़ी औरत के रूप में याद करता है। बीस वर्षों से लेखक अपनी दादी को जानता था, उसने उसे बूढ़ा और झुर्रीदार पाया था।

उसके लिए यह विश्वास करना कठिन था कि वह एक बार जवान और सुंदर थी और उसका एक पति था। ड्राइंग रूम की दीवार पर खुशवंत सिंह के दादा की तस्वीर टंगी थी। उसने एक बड़ी पगड़ी पहनी थी। उसके कपड़े ढीले थे। वह कम से कम सौ साल पुराना लग रहा था। उनके चित्र को देखकर, उनकी युवावस्था में उनकी पत्नी और बच्चों के साथ उनकी कल्पना नहीं की जा सकती थी।

The Author's Grandmother

The thought of the grandmother being young and pretty was almost revolting to him. She was short, fat and slightly bent in stature. Her face was a criss-cross of wrinkles. Her silvery white hair was scattered over her wrinkled face.

The author remembered her hobbling around the house in spotless white clothes with one hand resting on her waist to balance her stoop and the other hand busy counting the beads of her rosary. Her lips constantly moved in inaudible prayer.

To the author, she could never have been pretty, but she reflected a divine beauty. She was like the winter landscape in the mountains.

लेखक की दादी

दादी के युवा और सुंदर होने का विचार उनके लिए लगभग विद्रोही था। वह छोटी, मोटी और कद में थोड़ी मुड़ी हुई थी। उसका चेहरा झुर्रियों का एक क्रॉस-क्रॉस था। उसके चांदी के सफेद बाल उसके झुर्रीदार चेहरे पर बिखरे हुए थे।

लेखिका ने याद किया कि वह बेदाग सफेद कपड़ों में घर के चारों ओर घूम रही थी, जिसमें एक हाथ उसके कमर पर टिका हुआ था और दूसरा उसकी माला की माला गिनने में व्यस्त था। उसके होंठ लगातार अश्रव्य प्रार्थना में हिल रहे थे।

लेखक के लिए, वह कभी भी सुंदर नहीं हो सकती थी, लेकिन वह एक दिव्य सुंदरता को दर्शाती थी। वह पहाड़ों में सर्दियों के परिदृश्य की तरह थी।

The Author's Childhood with his Grandmother

The author and his grandmother were good friends. His parents left him to stay with her when they shifted to the city. In the village, his grandmother took care of all his needs. She was quite active and agile. She used to wake him up in the morning and get him ready for school. She said her morning prayers in a sing-song manner while she bathed and dressed him in the hope that her grandson would learn them by heart. The author listened to the prayers because he loved her voice, but never bothered to learn them.

Then she would fetch his wooden slate which she had already washed, and plastered it with yellow chalk. She would take an earthen inkpot and a reed pen and tie them in a bundle and hand it to the author. After having a thick, stale chapatti with a little butter and sugar spread on it for breakfast, they used to leave for school. The author's grandmother always accompanied him to the school as it was attached to the temple.

लेखक का बचपन अपनी दादी के साथ

लेखक और उसकी दादी अच्छे दोस्त थे। जब वे शहर में शिफ्ट हुए तो उसके माता-पिता ने उसे उसके साथ रहने के लिए छोड़ दिया। गांव में उनकी दादी उनकी सभी जरूरतों का ख्याल रखती थीं। वह काफी सक्रिय और फुर्तीली थी। वह सुबह उठकर उसे स्कूल के लिए तैयार करती थी। जब वह नहाती थी और उसे इस उम्मीद में कपड़े पहनाती थी कि उसका पोता उन्हें दिल से सीखेगा, तो उसने अपनी सुबह की प्रार्थना गाने के तरीके से की। लेखक ने प्रार्थनाएँ सुनीं क्योंकि वह उसकी आवाज़ से प्यार करता था, लेकिन उसे सीखने की कभी परवाह नहीं करता था।

फिर वह उसकी लकड़ी की स्लेट ले आती जिसे वह पहले ही धो चुकी थी, और उस पर पीले रंग की चाक लगा देती थी। वह एक मिट्टी का स्याही का बर्तन और एक ईख की कलम लेती थी और उन्हें एक बंडल में बांधती थी और उसे लेखक को सौंप देती थी। नाश्ते के लिए उस पर थोड़ा सा मक्खन और चीनी फैलाकर गाढ़ी, बासी चपाती खाकर स्कूल के लिए निकल जाते थे। लेखक की दादी हमेशा उनके साथ स्कूल जाती थीं क्योंकि यह मंदिर से जुड़ा हुआ था।

The Author at School

The priest taught children the alphabet and the morning prayer. The children sat in two rows in the verandah. They would sing the alphabet or the prayer in a chorus. While the author learnt his lessons at school, the grandmother would read scriptures in the adjoining temple. On their way back, they would feed stale chapattis to the dogs.

स्कूल में लेखक

पुजारी ने बच्चों को वर्णमाला और सुबह की प्रार्थना सिखाई। बरामदे में बच्चे दो कतारों में बैठे थे। वे कोरस में वर्णमाला या प्रार्थना गाते थे। जबकि लेखक ने अपना पाठ स्कूल में सीखा, दादी पास के मंदिर में शास्त्र पढ़ती थीं। वापस जाते समय वे कुत्तों को बासी रोटी खिलाते थे।

The Turning Point in the Relationship of Grandmother and the Author

The turning point came in their relationship when they moved to the city to stay with Khushwant Singh's parents. In the city, the author went to an English school in a motor bus. The grandmother could not accompany him to the school. As there were no dogs in the streets, the grandmother took to feeding the sparrows.

As the years rolled by, they saw less of each other. In spite of her immense interest in his studies, she could not help him in his lessons as he was learning English, the law of gravity, Archimedes' principle and many more such things which she could not understand, and this made her unhappy. Sometimes she would ask him what the teacher had taught him.

दादी और लेखक के रिश्ते में महत्वपूर्ण मोड़

उनके रिश्ते में मोड़ तब आया जब वे खुशवंत सिंह के माता-पिता के साथ रहने के लिए

शहर चले गए। शहर में, लेखक एक मोटर बस में एक अंग्रेजी स्कूल गया। दादी उसके साथ स्कूल नहीं जा सकती थीं। चूंकि गलियों में कुत्ते नहीं थे, इसलिए दादी ने गौरैयाओं को खाना खिलाना शुरू कर दिया।

जैसे-जैसे साल बीतते गए, उन्होंने एक-दूसरे को कम देखा। उसकी पढ़ाई में अत्यधिक रुचि के बावजूद, वह उसके पाठों में उसकी मदद नहीं कर सकती थी क्योंकि वह अंग्रेजी सीख रहा था, गुरुत्वाकर्षण का नियम, आर्किमिडीज का सिद्धांत और कई ऐसी चीजें जो वह समझ नहीं सकती थी, और इससे वह दुखी हो गई। कभी-कभी वह उससे पूछती थी कि शिक्षक ने उसे क्या सिखाया है।

Grandmother Distressed and Disturbed

Grandmother didn't believe in the things taught at the English school and was distressed to learn that there was no teaching about God and the scriptures in the school.

Moreover, she was very disturbed at the idea of music lessons being given at the English school. To her, music had lewd associations and she considered music to be unsuitable for gentle folk.

दादी अंग्रेजी स्कूल में पढ़ाई जाने वाली बातों पर विश्वास नहीं करती थीं और यह जानकर व्यथित थीं कि स्कूल में भगवान और शास्त्रों के बारे में कोई शिक्षण नहीं था।

इसके अलावा, वह अंग्रेजी स्कूल में संगीत की शिक्षा दिए जाने के विचार से बहुत परेशान थी। उनके लिए, संगीत में भेद जुड़ाव था और वह संगीत को सभ्य लोगों के लिए अनुपयुक्त मानती थीं।

The Common Link of Friendship gets Snapped

The common link of friendship between the author and the grandmother was broken when the author went to the University and was given a room of his own. The grandmother accepted her loneliness and rarely spoke to anyone. All day long, she sat spinning the wheel and reciting her prayers.

Only in the afternoon did she relax for a while to feed the sparrows. They perched on her shoulders and some even on her head but she never shooed them away. It used to be the happiest half-hour of the day for her.

दोस्ती की आम कड़ी टूट जाती है

लेखक और दादी के बीच दोस्ती की सामान्य कड़ी तब टूट गई जब लेखक विश्वविद्यालय गया और उसे अपना एक कमरा दिया गया। दादी ने अपने अकेलेपन को स्वीकार किया और शायद ही कभी किसी से बात की हो। दिन भर वह पहिया घुमाती रही और प्रार्थना करती रही।

दोपहर में ही वह गौरैयाओं को चराने के लिए थोड़ी देर आराम करती थी। वे उसके कंधों पर और कुछ उसके सिर पर भी बैठे लेकिन उसने कभी उन्हें दूर नहीं भगाया। यह उसके लिए दिन का सबसे खुशी का आधा घंटा हुआ करता था।

The Author Leaves for Higher Studies

The author decided to go abroad for higher studies for five years. He was sure that his grandmother would be upset at his departure, but she was not even sentimental. She came to

the railway station to see him off. She showed no emotion. She was absorbed in praying and counting the beads of her rosary. Silently she kissed his forehead. The author thought that perhaps it was the last sign of physical contact between them.

लेखक उच्च अध्ययन के लिए रवाना

लेखक ने पांच साल के लिए उच्च अध्ययन के लिए विदेश जाने का फैसला किया। उसे यकीन था कि उसके जाने से उसकी दादी परेशान होगी, लेकिन वह भावुक भी नहीं थी। वह उसे विदा करने रेलवे स्टेशन आई थी। उसने कोई भावना नहीं दिखाई। वह प्रार्थना करने और माला के मोतियों को गिनने में लीन थी। चुपचाप उसने उसका माथा चूम लिया। लेखक ने सोचा कि शायद यह उनके बीच शारीरिक संपर्क का अंतिम संकेत था।

The Grandmother Celebrates the Author's Return and Falls Sick

After five years, the author found his grandmother at the station when he returned. She held him in her arms. He found her more religious and more self-contained. He could hear her reciting prayers. Even that day, the happiest moment for her was feeding the sparrows herself. However, something strange happened to her in the evening.

For the first time ever, she did not pray. Instead, she collected the women of the neighbourhood, got an old drum and started to sing songs of the homecoming of warriors. They tried to persuade her to stop to avoid overstraining herself. But she didn't listen. She fell ill the next morning.

दादी ने लेखक की वापसी का जश्न मनाया और वह बीमार पड़ गई

पांच साल बाद, लेखक ने अपनी दादी को स्टेशन पर पाया जब वह वापस लौटा। उसने उसे अपनी बाँहों में थाम लिया। उसने उसे अधिक धार्मिक और अधिक आत्मनिर्भर पाया। वह उसे पढ़ते हुए प्रार्थना सुन सकता था। उस दिन भी, उसके लिए सबसे खुशी का पल खुद गौरैयाओं को खाना खिला रहा था। हालांकि, शाम को उसके साथ कुछ अजीब हुआ।

पहली बार उसने प्रार्थना नहीं की। इसके बजाय, उसने पड़ोस की महिलाओं को इकट्ठा किया, एक पुराना ड्रम लिया और योद्धाओं की घर वापसी के गीत गाना शुरू कर दिया। उन्होंने खुद को ओवरस्ट्रेन से बचने के लिए उसे रोकने के लिए मनाने की कोशिश की। लेकिन उसने नहीं सुनी। अगली सुबह वह बीमार पड़ गई।

Grandmother's Death

The grandmother was diagnosed with a mild fever by the doctor but she insisted that her end was near. She told everyone that she did not want to talk to anyone and would rather spend her last moments praying. She ignored everyone's protests and started counting the beads in her rosary while praying.

After a short while, the author noticed that his grandmother's lips stopped moving and the rosary fell from her lifeless fingers. She died a peaceful death. She was covered with a red shawl.

दादी की मृत्यु

डॉक्टर द्वारा दादी को हल्का बुखार होने का पता चला था लेकिन उन्होंने जोर देकर कहा

कि उनका अंत निकट था। उसने सभी से कहा कि वह किसी से बात नहीं करना चाहती और अपने आखिरी पल प्रार्थना में बिताएगी। उसने सभी के विरोध को नजरअंदाज कर दिया और प्रार्थना करते हुए अपनी माला में मोतियों को गिनना शुरू कर दिया।

थोड़ी देर बाद, लेखक ने देखा कि उसकी दादी के होंठ हिलना बंद हो गए और उसकी बेजान उंगलियों से माला गिर गई। वह एक शांतिपूर्ण मौत मर गई। वह लाल शॉल से ढकी हुई थी।

The Sparrows Mourn her Death

When the author and others came to take away the grandmother's body, they met a strange sight. To mourn her death, a lot of sparrows had surrounded the grandmother's body. They were all silent. When the author's mother offered the sparrows some bread, they refused to eat and quietly flew away after the grandmother's body was carried away for the last rites.

गौरैयाओं ने उसकी मौत पर शोक व्यक्त किया

जब लेखक और अन्य लोग दादी के शरीर को लेने आए, तो उन्हें एक अजीब दृश्य मिला। उनकी मौत पर मातम मनाने के लिए नानी के शव को ढेर सारी गौरैयाओं ने घेर लिया था। वे सब चुप थे। जब लेखक की माँ ने गौरैयाओं को कुछ रोटी दी, तो उन्होंने खाने से इनकार कर दिया और दादी के शरीर को अंतिम संस्कार के लिए ले जाने के बाद चुपचाप उड़ गए।

GLOSSARY

Portrait-word picture, शब्द चित्र;
wrinkled-full of creases or folds
झुर्रियों से भरा ; pretty-charming, सुंदर ;

mantelpiece—shelf above a fireplace, अंगीठी के ऊपर बना टाँड ; turban—head gear, पगड़ी; revolting—disgusting, अरुचिकर ; absurd—ridiculous, foolish, मूर्खतापूर्ण ; undignified—not respectable, अशोभनीय; fables—legendary tales with moral lessons, शिक्षाप्रद कहानियाँ; prophets—God’s messengers, पैगम्बर , गुरु; slightly—a little, थोड़ी -सी; criss-cross—intersecting lines, एक दूसरे को काटती रेखाएँ।

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Terribly-frightening, डरावना; hobbled—walked lamely, लंगड़ा कर चला; stoop—swoop or bent of the body, शरीर का झुकाव; beads of her rosary—small balls of a string of beads used for prayer. माला के दाने यामनके; silver locks—white hair, सफ़ेद बाल; scattered—spread, बिखरे रहते थे; untidily—in a disorderly manner, अनसुलझे हुए; puckered—wrinkled, झुर्रीदार; inaudible—which could not be heard, सुनाई न देने वाला; landscape—the portion of land one can see at one glance, भूदृश्य; expanse—wide extent, विस्तार; serenity—calmness, शांति ; contentment—mental peace, शांति ; constantly—all the time, सदैव; monotonous—in the same tone, एक स्वर में ; sing—song—dull, एक सुर; fetch—bring, ले आती थी; plastered—covered, smeared, पुती हुई ; tiny earthen—small, made of earth, मिट्टी की छोटे आकार की; stale—not fresh, बासी ; attached on the same building. जुड़ा हुआ; alphabet—

letters, वर्णक्षर; rows—straight lines, कतार; In a chorus—together, समूह में; scriptures— holy books. धार्मिक पुस्तकें; growling—making angry sound, गुर्राना; turning point—a point of marked change, मोड़; courtyard—open space, आँगन; rolled by—passed

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Gravity—power to attract, गुरुत्वाकर्षण का सिद्धान्त; distressed—pained, दुःखी; lewd—vulgar, indecent, अश्लील; association—connection, जुड़ाव; monopoly—one’s exclusive right, एकाधिकार; harlots—prostitutes, वेश्याएं; disapproval—dislike, मनाही; snapped—broken. टूट गया; seclusion—aloofness, अलगाव; resignation—without complaint, सहजभाव से; reciting—uttering, , गुनगुनाते हुए ; relaxed—took a break, rested, विश्राम करती थी; veritable—truly; bedlam—noisy confusion as in a madhouse, पागलखाने का शोरगुल; chirruping—sound made by birds, पक्षियों की चहचाहट; perched—sat, बैठा; shooed away—drove away, उड़ा देना; abroad—outside the country, विदेश; upset—disturbed, परेशान; sentimental—carried away by emotions, भावुक; cherished—held as dear, प्रिय मानता रहा ; moist—damp, गीला; imprint—impression, छाप; clasped—embraced, आर्लिगन किया ; frivolous—light-hearted, कोमल हृदय से; rebukes—scolding, झिड़कियाँ; thumped—beat, बजाया , पीटा ; sagging—hanging loosely, लटका हुआ।

CHARACTER OF GRAND-MOTHER

- a picture of beauty, peace and contentment
- old, wrinkled, slightly bent, short and fat
- White hair, always clad in white
- Religious
 - her lips constantly moved in inaudible prayer and one hand always telling the beads of a rosary
 - visited the temple and read holy scriptures daily
- Responsible, affectionate and caring
 - looked after the author in the village in his parent's absence
- Kind and generous -
- fed dogs in the village with stale chapatties and sparrows in the city with bread crumbs
- Benevolent and gentle -
 - never shooed away the birds who sat on her head and shoulders
- Concerned and caring
 - personally accompanied the author to school in village
 - took interest in what was taught at school
- Conservative and traditional
 - disappointed at the author's receiving music in the city school
- distressed at lack of teaching about God and scriptures in the city school
- Reserved and non-interfering
 - kept her thoughts to herself and spent spare time in the city on her spinning wheel
- Practical, stoic and realist
 - accepted grandson's decision to go abroad for higher studies
- Control over emotions and sentiments
 - calm and controlled; did not break down as expected at the station while seeing off her grandson
- Patient and blessed with strong will-power
 - accompanied family members to see-off grandson and after five years was there at the station to receive him
- Intuitive -
 - knew when her end was near and accepted it
 - eased her passage to the other world by praying continuously on death bed

TITLE

The title of the chapter, "The Portrait of a Lady" is apt and appropriate. Besides being a pen sketch of his grandmother, the passage is Khushwant Singh's loving tribute to her, his relationship with her and the emotional bond he shared with her. He graphically

describes the person and personality of the grandmother who had all the attributes of a lady.

OBJECTIVE QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

1. Where was the author's grandfather's portrait placed ?

- A. On The Table
- B. Hung Above The Mantelpiece
- C. Hung Beneath The Light
- D. None Of The Above

Ans. B

2. Who is the main character of the chapter "The Portrait of a Lady ?"

- A. Grandmother
- B. Khushwant singh
- C. author
- D. sparrows

Ans. A

3. How did the grandfather on the wall look like ?

- A. old but wearing jeans
- B. young, long hair
- C. Old, with a long white beard, wore a big turban
- D. none of the above

Ans. C

4. Did the author bother to learn the morning prayers that his grandmother recited ?

- A. yes he bother to learn
- B. He listened but did not bother to learn
- C. he don't bother
- D. neither bother nor listen

Ans. B

5. When did the author's parents leave him with his grandmother ?

- A. when he was an adult
- B. when he was 5 years old
- C. when he was an old man
- D. When he was a kid

Ans. D

6. Which animal did the grandmother use to feed in the village ?

- A. sparrows B. Dogs
- C. crow D. pigeon

Ans. B

7. What did the author eat for breakfast ?

- A. Thick and stale chapattis with little butter and sugar spread on it
- B. daal and rice
- C. jam bread
- D. bread toast

Ans. A

8. Why would grandmother accompany the author to his school ?

- A. because he was innocent
- B. Because of the temple being attached to the school

- C. because he used to forget way
D. none of the above

Ans. B

9. Where were the parents of the author ?

- A. in a house B. in village
C- in a town D- In the city

Ans. D

10. What would the grandmother do in the temple daily ?

- A. she study literature
B. she used to play
C. Read scriptures
D. none of the above

Ans. C

11. What was the turning point of the friendship between grandmother and author ?

- A. When his parents called them both to the city
B. when author went for abroad
C. when he start going to school
D. when grandmother passed away

Ans. A

12. Where did the author go to study in the city ?

- A. in temple
B. English school in motor bus
C. in religious school
D. none of the above

Ans. B

13. What made the grandmother unhappy about the author's new English school ?

- A. because it was small school
B. because she didn't like teachers
C. she don't want him to study
D. Because she didn't understand English and could no longer help him with lessons

Ans.D

14. Why didn't the grandmother like music ?

- A. she didn't listen it before
B. It was the monopoly of harlots and beggars
C. she like the music
D. none of the above

Ans. B

15. How did the grandmother spend her time in the city ?

- A. feeding dogs
B. feeding sparrows
C. Spinning the wheel
D. reading scriptures

Ans. C

16. How did the grandmother spend her afternoons in the city ?

- A. By feeding hundreds of sparrows
B. by feeding dogs
C. by feeding author

D. by feeding herself

Ans. A

17. What happened when the author moved abroad to study for five years ?

- A. she was crying
- B. she was quite
- C. Grandmother bid goodbye by silently kissing his forehead
- D. none of the above

Ans. C

18. What change came in the grandmother's evening schedule when her end came ?

- A. She collected the women of the neighborhood
- B. she just laying down
- C. she was talking to her family
- D. she did nothing

Ans. A

19. What happened when the grandmother didn't pray for the first time ?

- A. she was fit and
- B. She fell ill the next day
- C. nothing happened to her
- D. none of the above

Ans. B

20. How did the grandmother react to her illness ?

- A. She said her end was near
- B. she was happy

C. she was sad

D. she was amazed

Ans. A

21. What did the grandmother do in her final hours ?

- A. sing a song
- B. Prayed silently and counted the beads of her rosary
- C. she was crying
- D. feeding sparrows

Ans. B

22. How did the grandmother die ?

- A. While telling beads, laying on the bed
- B. from heart attack
- C. in grief of author
- D. she died happily

Ans. A

23. How did the sparrows express their sorrow at the death of the author's grandmother ?

- A. by chirping
- B. by eating food
- C. They came and sat silently in the veranda
- D. none of the above

Ans. C

24. What happened when grandmother's corpse was taken away?

- A. nothing happened
- B. the author was crying

- C. the dogs we're came
- D. The sparrows flew away silently

Ans. D

25. What happened to the scattered breadcrumbs which the sparrows did not eat ?

- A. Thrown in the dustbin
- B. then dogs ate that
- C. sparrows ate that
- D. nothing

Ans. A

26. The Portrait of a Lady is written by?

- A. Khushwant Singh
- B. Anees Jung
- C. Premchand
- D. None Of The Above

Ans. A

27. The Portrait of a Lady is written in ?

- A. Biographical mode
- B. Autobiographical mode
- C. It was a book
- D. none of the above

Ans. A

28. Grandmother was wearing ?

- A. Spotless white saree
- B. Salwar kurta
- C. black saree
- D. green saree

Ans. A

29. Grandmother was uttering the

monotonous song while she was ?

- A- crying B- writing
- C- Bathing D- playing

Ans. C

30. "The happiest half-hour of the day" for the grandmother was ?

- A. feeding the dogs
- B. Feeding the sparrows in the afternoon for half an hour
- C. getting ready to author
- D. none of the above

Ans. B

31. What did the author think was the last physical contact with his grandmother ?

- A. grandmother slapped him
- B. grandmother hold his hand
- C. grandmother used to ready him
- D. The author was kissed on the forehead by his grandmother

Ans. D

32. How did Khushwant Singh's grandmother bid him farewell when he was leaving for his studies abroad?

- A- she was studying
- B- she was dancing
- C- The grandmother was in full control of her emotions.
- D- she was crying

Ans. C

33. How did the grandmother celebrate Khushwant Singh's return from abroad ?

- A. She sang songs while beating an old dilapidated drum. The songs were of the home-coming of warriors
- B. she didn't come out of her room.
- C. she showered flowers on him
- D. none of the above

Ans. A

34. How did grandmother keep herself busy in the city home ?

- A. by feeding sparrows
- B. By working on her spinning wheel
- C. by getting shower
- D. none of the above

Ans. B

35. For how many years did the narrator know his grandmother ?

- A- 20 years B- 10 years
- C- 25 years D- 15 years

Ans. A

36. Grandmother ignored the protest of the family member because ?

- A. she don't want any big function
- B. She wanted to pray peacefully
- C. she wanted to cry alone

D. none of the above

Ans. B

37. How did the grandmother look ?

- A. young but slightly bent
- B. old but tall
- C. young tall, slim
- D. Old, short, slightly bent, fat

Ans. D

38. How did his grandfather look like ?

- A. slightly bent
- B. old man
- C. young man
- D. Looked like a hundred years old man

Ans. D

39. How did his grandfather's beard look like ?

- A. White and long
- B. golden and long
- C. black and long
- D. none of the above

Ans. A

40. Who was very good friend of the narrator ?

- A- His grandmother
- B- his mother
- C- his father
- D- his neighbor

Ans. A

SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS:

Q1. Mention three reasons why the author's grandmother was disturbed when he started going to the city school.

Or

Why was the grandmother distressed at the teachings imparted to the author in the English school? (Textual)

The author told his grandmother the English words and little things of western science and learning e.g. the law of gravity, the world being round, which he learnt at school. She did not believe in all this and was distressed. She was worried that there was no teaching about God and the scriptures in the city school. Moreover, she was also disturbed when she came to know that her grandson was also being given lessons in music.

Q2. Mention the three ways in which the author's grandmother spent her days after he grew up. (Textual)

Or

Grandmother became a lonely figure in the city. How did she adjust and adapt to this loneliness?

The grandmother always remained busy with the spinning wheel. From sunrise to sunset she sat by her wheel spinning and

reciting prayers. It was only in the afternoon that she took a while to feed the sparrows. Besides, she is praying and telling the beads of a rosary. I was always busy

Q3. Mention the odd way in which the author's grandmother behaved just before she died.

Or

What could have been the cause of grandmother's falling ill? (Textual)

When the author returned from abroad, the grandmother collected the women of the neighbourhood to celebrate his home-coming. She took a drum and started thumping it and singing. Her family persuaded her to stop to avoid over straining. That was the first time that she did not pray. And the following day she fell ill and died.

Q4. Mention the way in which sparrows expressed their sorrow When the author's grandmother died. (Textual)

Or

What was the sparrows' reaction to their grandmother's death? What was this indicative of?

Hundreds of sparrows paid a silent tribute to the grandmother on her death. They collected and sat quietly around her dead body. They did not chirrup as usual. They also did not accept

the bread crumbs thrown to them by the author's mother. When the grandmother's body was carried off they flew away quietly. The sparrows' reaction shows that's deep bond of affection had developed between them and the grandmother.

- Q5. "That was a turning-point in our friendship."

What was the turning-point?

Or

What changes occurred between the author's and his grandmother's relationship when they shifted to the city?

Shifting of the grandmother and the author to the city became a turning point in their friendship. The author joined an English medium school in the city. Although they shared the same room, his grandmother no longer accompanied him to school. Moreover, she was unable to help him in lessons that were taught at school. Thus, a sort of distancing occurred in the relationship.

- Q6. Draw a comparison between village school education and city school education.

The city school education was quite different from the education imparted in the village school. In the village, the students were taught the alphabet, prayer and religious texts. But in the city the students were taught English

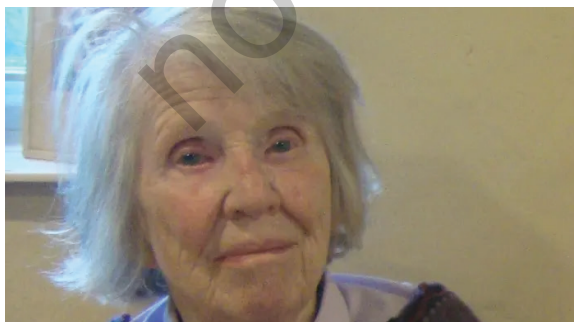
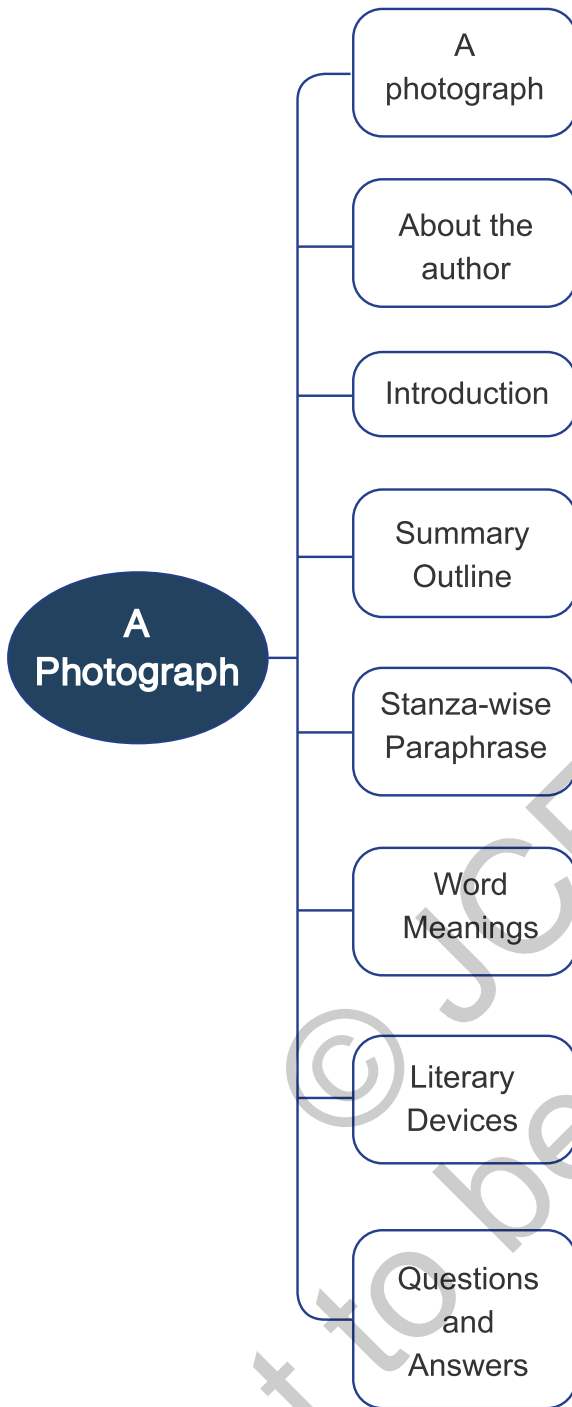
language, Western Science and Music. The children were not given any lessons on religion and scriptures. In the village, the temple priest doubled up as the teacher while in the city there were specialist teachers to teach different subjects.

- Q7. Write about grandmother's daily routine in the village.

The grandmother bathed and dressed the author and got him ready for school. Thereafter she tied a wooden slate, an earthen ink-pot and a pen, in a bundle and handed it to him. She then gave him breakfast consisting of stale chapattis with a little butter and sugar spread on it. Then the two would set out for the temple - the author for studies and she for prayers and reading scriptures.

- Q8. The grandmother was a kind-hearted woman. Give examples in support of your answer.

The author's grandmother was really a very kind woman. She had a noble soul with great affection for all the creatures of God. During her stay in the village, she fed stale chapattis to the stray dogs. When she came to live in the city, she took to feeding sparrows as there were no dogs in the streets. She broke the bread into little bits and fed it to hundreds of little birds who collected around her. Some perched on her legs and others on her shoulders, but she never shooed them away.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

- Name: Kathleen Shirley Toulson
- Lifetime: 20 May 1924 in England – 23 September 2018
- Nationality: British
- Education: Birkbeck, University of London
- Occupation: English writer, poet, journalist and local politician
- works: The Drovers, The Celtic Year a Celebration of Celtic Christian Saints Sites and Festivals More

INTRODUCTION

Shirley Toulson's poem 'A Photograph' is a loving tribute to her mother. The poem reflects the passage of time and its three stages. In the first stage, the photograph shows his mother enjoying a holiday on a beach along with her two girl cousins. She was 12 at the time. The second stage transports us to twenty or thirty years later. This stage shows the mother laughing at her picture and the way she and her cousins were dressed in the picture at a beach. In the third stage, the poet sadly remembers the dead mother with his broken heart. The photograph revives nostalgic waves in the poet.

SUMMARY OUTLINE:

- 1 The poet's mother shows her a photograph.

- 2 Her mother was then only about 12 years old.
- 3 The photograph shows her mother with her two girl cousins, Betty and Dolly.
- 4 They were enjoying a sea holiday.
- 5 The cousins were paddling in water holding the hand of the big girl, the poet's mother.
- 6 The sea was washing their feet with the waves.
- 7 Some twenty-thirty years later, her mother was showing the photograph and laughing at it.
- 8 Both the poet and her mother mourned for the loss of their beautiful past.
- 9 Now the poet's mother is no more. Consequently, the poet becomes speechless.

STANZA-WISE PARAPHRASE:

Paraphrase

(1st Stanza)

"The cardboard shows me how it was When the two girl cousins went paddling, Each one holding one of my mother's hands, And she the big girl — some twelve years or so. All three stood still to smile through their hair At the uncle with the camera. A sweet face, My mother's, that was before I was born. And the sea, which appears to have changed less, Washed their terribly transient feet."

In these lines, the poet is looking at an old photo album which is made up of cardboard. In the picture, there are three girls who are walking on the beach holding each other's hands. The older girl in the middle is the poet's mother. She was around twelve years old when the picture was taken. Next, the poet describes how the photograph was taken. Her mother's uncle took the photograph and told them to stop and pose. All three of them left their wet hair open and smiled at the camera. The poet's attention is drawn towards his mother's face which is described as a 'sweet face'. The photograph was taken long before the poet was born. The poet calls their feet 'terribly transient' as they were so young by then and now they had grown older. On the other hand, the sea which touched their feet has changed less.

इन पंक्तियों में कवि एक पुराने फोटो एलबम को देख रहा है जो कार्डबोर्ड से बना है। तस्वीर में तीन लड़कियां हैं जो बीच पर एक-दूसरे का हाथ थामे चल रही हैं। बीच में बड़ी लड़की कवि की माँ है। वह लगभग बारह वर्ष की है जब चित्र लिया गया था। इसके बाद, कवि वर्णन करता है कि तस्वीर कैसे ली गई थी। उसकी माँ के चाचा ने फोटो खींची और उन्हें रुकने और पोज देने के लिए कहा। उन तीनों ने अपने गीले बालों को खुला छोड़ दिया और कैमरे की तरफ देखकर मुस्कुरा दीं। कवि का ध्यान अपनी माँ के चेहरे की ओर खींचा जाता है जिसे 'मीठा चेहरा' बताया गया है। तस्वीर कवि के जन्म से बहुत पहले ली गई थी। कवि उनके पैरों को 'बेहद क्षणिक' कहता है क्योंकि वे तब तक बहुत छोटे थे और अब वे बड़े हो गए थे। दूसरी ओर, उनके पैरों को छूने वाला समुद्र कम बदला है।

(2nd Stanza)

“Some twenty — thirty — years later
She'd laugh at the snapshot. “See
Betty And Dolly,” she'd say, “and look
how they Dressed us for the beach.”
The sea holiday Was her past, mine
is her laughter. Both wry With the
laboured ease of loss.”

After twenty-thirty years, she was laughing at the photograph. She would tell me to look at her girl cousins, Betty and Dolly and how their parents would dress all three of them up for the beach. They would have planned to take a photograph beforehand. The poet recalls the sea holiday was her mother's favourite moment from the past. While the poet's favourite moment from the past was her mother's laughter. Both the women would think about those past memories which they cannot live with again. They tried their best to adjust to what they lost.

बीस-तीस साल बाद, वह तस्वीर पर हंस रही थी। वह मुझे अपने चचेरे बहन, बेट्टी और डॉली को देखने के लिए कहती थी और कैसे उनके माता-पिता उन तीनों को समुद्र तट के लिए तैयार करेंगे। उन्होंने पहले से एक तस्वीर लेने की योजना बनाई होगी। कवयित्री याद करती है कि समुद्र की छुट्टी अतीत से उसकी माँ का पसंदीदा क्षण था। जबकि अतीत से कवि का पसंदीदा क्षण उसकी माँ की हँसी थी। दोनों औरतें उन बीती यादों के बारे में सोचती थीं, जिनके साथ वे दोबारा नहीं रह सकतीं। उन्होंने जो खोया उसे समायोजित करने की पूरी कोशिश की।

(3rd Stanza)

“Now she's been dead nearly as many
years As that girl lived. And of this

circumstance There is nothing to say
at all. Its silence silences.”

In the above lines, the poet says that her mother died twelve years ago, the same age her mother was in the photograph. Whenever the poet thinks of her mother's death, she cannot explain what effect she has on her mother's death. Death has silenced her mother which has also left her speechless.

ऊपर की पंक्तियों में कवि कहता है कि उसकी माँ की मृत्यु बारह वर्ष पूर्व हुई थी, उसी उम्र में उसकी माँ की तस्वीर थी। जब भी कवि अपनी माँ की मृत्यु के बारे में सोचता है, तो वह यह नहीं बता सकती कि उसकी माँ की मृत्यु पर उसका क्या प्रभाव पड़ा है। मौत ने उसकी माँ को खामोश कर दिया है जिससे वह भी अवाक रह गई है।

WORD MEANINGS

cardboard – very stiff paperboard on which the photograph was pasted

paddling – walking through shallow water in bare feet

big girl – mother is referred to as the big girl as she was the eldest among the three girls

still – without moving or shaking

smile through – smiling faces could be seen through their hair which was flying over their faces

terribly – extremely

transient – temporary, lasting only for a short time

snapshot – photograph

dressed us – put on clothes

wry – disgusted

laboured – achieved after a lot of hard work, done with great effort

ease – comfort

circumstance – situation

silences – make someone unable to speak

LITERARY DEVICES

Alliteration – repetition of a consonant sound at the beginning of two or more consecutive words. The instances of alliteration in the poem are as follows-

“Stood still”

“My mother’s”

“Terribly transient”

“Silence silences”

Oxymoron – a term which contradicts itself

“Laboured ease”

Allusion: An allusion is a reference or an incidental mention of something, either directly or by implication. An example of allusion in this poem is “cardboard” which actually refers to the photograph.

Transferred Epithet: It is a literary device in which an adjective is usually used to describe one thing but is transferred to another. e.g. “washed their terribly transient feet”.

Personification: The example is “Its silence silences.” The situation has been given the human quality of silence.

MCQ

1. Who is the poet/poetess of the poem ‘A Photograph’?
A. Shirley Toulson
B. Rudyard Kipling
C. Elizabeth Jennings
D. Markus Natten

Ans. A. Shirley Toulson

2. What is the poem ‘A Photograph’ about?
A. About poet’s childhood memories
B. tribute to the poet’s mother
C. Poet’s photograph
D. Poet’s father

Ans. B. tribute to the poet’s mother

3. What was the age of the poet’s mother when the photograph was taken?
A. eleven years old
B. thirteen years old
C. twelve years old
D. fourteen year old

Ans. C. twelve years old

4. When did her mother die ?
A. two years ago
B. five years ago

C. thirteen years ago

D. twelve years ago

Ans. D. twelve years ago

5. How many people were in the photograph?

A. two girls

B. three girls

C. two girls and one boy

D. only her mother

Ans. B. three girls

6. Which material was the frame of the photograph made of?

A. Cardboard B. Wood

C. Steel D. Plastic

Ans. A. Cardboard

7. Who are on both sides of her mother?

A. Cousins, Betty and Dolly

B. Parents

C. Cousins, Dolly and Adam

D. Friends

Ans. A. Cousins, Betty and Dolly

8. What are the three of them doing in the photograph?

A. playing

B. standing beside house

C. holding hands

D. holding hands and went for paddling

Ans. D. holding hands and went for paddling

9. Who took the photograph of her mother with her cousin?

A. Her grandfather

B. Her uncle

C. Her mother's friend

D. Her grandmother

Ans. B. Her uncle

10. What does 'Terribly Transient Feet' mean in the poem?

A. her feet represent the mother, who changed with time while the sea remained the same

B. temporary situation

C. age is temporary

D. None of the above

Ans. A. her feet represent the mother, who changed with time while the sea remained the same

11. After how many years did her mother laugh on seeing the photograph?

A. twenty-one B. twenty-thirty

C. twelve D. twenty-five

Ans. B. twenty-thirty

12. What was the favourite memory of her mother?

- A. beach holidays
- B. school memories
- C. vacations
- D. None of the above

Ans. A. beach holidays

13. What was the favourite memory of the poet?

- A. her mother's memories
- B. her mother's laughter
- C. her own vacation memories
- D. her childhood memories

Ans. B. her mother's laughter

14. What would the mother show to her daughter while showing her the photograph?

- A. how her parents dressed her for the beach
- B. her cousins
- C. her own childhood photograph
- D. the background

Ans. A. how her parents dressed her for the beach

15. What is the meaning of the word 'wry'?

- A. ironic
- B. cry
- C. sad

D. None of the above

Ans. A. ironic

16. What Oxymoron literary device was used in the poem?

- A. Terribly transient
- B. Through their
- C. Both wry
- D. Laboured ease

Ans. D. Laboured ease

17. What Epithet literary device was used in the poem?

- A. Terribly transient
- B. Through their
- C. Both wry
- D. Laboured ease

Ans. A. Terribly transient

18. How many phases were depicted in the poem by the poet?

- A. one B. two
- C. three D. four

Ans. C. three

19. What was the last phase in the poem?

- A. after her mother died
- B. after she grown up
- C. after her mother grown up
- D. None of the above

Ans. A. after her mother died

20. What does she feel in the last phase?

- A. pain and grief
- B. happy and nostalgic
- C. sad and nostalgic
- D. pain and nostalgic

Ans. A. pain and grief

TEXTUAL QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q1. What does the word 'cardboard' denote in the poem? Why has this word been used?

Ans. The word "cardboard" in the poem refers to the photograph. It is just a piece of paper a memory as the poet's mother is dead and gone. It signifies the transience of life and what remains is an insignificant piece of paper.

Q 2. What has the camera captured?

Ans. The camera has captured the scene when the poet's mother and her two female cousins, Betty and Dolly, went paddling. They were holding the poet's mother's hands. The eldest of the three was about twelve years old. The three of them stood smiling as the wind moved their hair.

Q3. What has not changed over the years? Does this suggest something to you?

Ans. The sea has not changed over the years. It remains the same through generations. On the contrary, life is

transient. The mother has now been dead for years. Human life is transitory and this transience is contrasted with the permanence of nature.

Q 4. The poet's mother laughed at the snapshot. What did this laugh indicate?

Ans. The mother laughed at the fleeting moments that had long passed. She relived the memories when they were dressed as children and taken out. She laughed as she recalled the happy memories.

Q 5. What is the meaning of the line "Both wry with the laboured ease of loss."

Ans. The poet's mother had been out on a beach holiday, years back and felt nostalgic about it, similar to what the poet felt when she relived the memories of her dead mother. The memories, in each case, were beautiful, but painful to recall as time slipped away, so easily.

Q 6. What does "this circumstance" refer to?

Ans. "This circumstance" is the death of the mother. This fact is as true and as real as the one that her mother had experienced, on the beach. Both the situations are now a memory of the past. The first is a memory of the mother's past and the second of the poet's past.

Q 7. The three stanzas depict three different phases. What are they?

Ans. refer to the Introduction