

John Berryman's



The Ball Poem



SESSION

Highlights

- ★ Menti Quiz 1 ✓
- ★ Analysis of the poem ✓
- ★ Vocabulary ✓
- ★ Chai-fi Quizzes ✓
- ★ Homework Question ✓
- ★ Menti Quiz 2 ✓



3-man-g 3.0

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WEEKLY SCHEDULE

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DATE	SERIES	SESSION	TYPE
24-AUG	CBSE 9 IN ONE SHOT	A LEGEND OF THE NORTHLAND ONE SHOT	LIVE
24-AUG	UMANG CBSE 10 - 2021	THE BALL POEM - Q&A + MCQS -	LIVE
25-AUG	ENGLISH LITERATURE MCQ SERIES	WIND - MCQS - -	LIVE
25-AUG	MASTERCLASS	PREPARING FOR NTSE STAGE 1? WHAT WILL YOU MISS IF YOU DON'T WATCH THIS VIDEO TODAY -	LIVE
26-AUG	ICSE 10 IN ONE SHOT	I KNOW WHY THE CAGED BIRD SINGS - MCQ SCORE BOOSTER MENTI QUIZ	LIVE



WEEKLY SCHEDULE

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DATE	SERIES	SESSION	TYPE
26-AUG	UMANG CBSE 9 - 2021	MY CHILDHOOD Q&A + MCQS	LIVE
27-AUG	MASTERCLASS	CASE BASE MCQ QUESTIONS - FACTUAL PASSAGE (ENGLISH TERM 1 2021 EXAM) -	LIVE
27-AUG	ENGLISH LITERATURE MCQ SERIES	THE THIEF'S STORY - MCQS	LIVE
28-AUG	ENGLISH LITERATURE MCQ SERIES	THE ADVENTURES OF TOTO - MCQS	LIVE



Amit Rohra

English



- **10+ Years of teaching experience.**
- **Taught & mentored more than 40,000 students.**

In my class you will learn to Be a Reader, a Writer and an Achiever.

Q1: Who wrote 'The Ball Poem'?

(a) Sylvia Plath

(b) W.B Yeats

(c) Robert Frost

(d) John Berryman.

Q2: John Berryman was

An American poet

An English poet

An Australian poet

A Welsh poet

Q3: in the poem who loses the ball?

(a) the poet

(b) the boy

(c) a friend of the poet

(d) none of the above

Q4: Where has the boy lost his ball?

(a) in the water

(b) in the school

(c) in the fire

(d) at home

Q5: How does the boy feel when he loses his ball?

(a) confused

(b) shaken

(c) trembling

(d) all of the above

Q6: What does the poet say about money?

(a) internal

(b) external

(c) useless

(d) all of the above

Q7: How are the boy's eyes?

(a) brilliant

(b) dull

(c) desperate

(d) all of the above

Q8: The word 'balls' signify -

i) toys possessed by children

ii) small things in life

iii) things that we possess in life

iv) sweet thoughts in our mind.

Q9: 'Money is external' means -

- i) money has no value at all.
- ii) money can give us only temporary happiness
- iii) money comes from foreign countries
- iv) money is very valuable

Q10: The poet does not offer the new ball because he wants to teach him the value of

- i) ability
- ii) capacity
- iii) responsibility
- iv) money

Line 1 - 4

What is the boy now, who has lost his ball,

What, what is he to do? I saw it go

Merrily bouncing, down the street, and then

Merrily over — there it is in the water!

Vocabulary



- Merrily: cheerful ✓
- Bouncing: jumping up and down

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- He says that the ball was cheerfully jumping up and down in the street.
- This means that when the ball slipped from the boy's hand it went into the street and later on, it fell into the nearby river.

harbour

Line 5 - 10

No use to say 'O there are other balls': ! magery

An ultimate shaking grief fixes the boy sad shock

As he stands rigid, trembling, staring down

Enjambment All his young days into the harbour where.

His ball went. I would not intrude on him,

A dime, another ball, is worthless. Now

Vocabulary



- Grief: sorrow ✓
- Rigid: fixed
- Trembling: shaking ✓
- Harbour: dock, port *ships*
- Intrude: invader
- Dime: 10 cents (U.S) ✓
- Worthless: valueless, useless

- According to the poet, there is no use to say “O there are other balls’ i.e. it is useless to make the boy happy by saying there are balls in the market because the boy is standing rigid (motionless).

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- He is trembling (with fear or sorrow) while staring down (watching and thinking of) all his young days (i.e. the memory of the balls which he used to play with) into the harbor (the bank of the river) in which his ball went.

→ childhood

- According to the poet, there is no use to say “O there are other balls’ i.e. it is useless to make the boy happy by saying there are balls in the market because the boy is standing rigid (motionless).
- He is trembling (with fear or sorrow) while staring down (watching and thinking of) all his young days (i.e. the memory of the balls which he used to play with) into the harbor (the bank of the river) in which his ball went.
- The poet thinks that he should not intrude on (here it means “try making him happy”) him because a dime (here it means money) and another ball (purchased by money) are worthless for the boy.

- It is because the boy was very attached to the ball and loved it very much.

→ memories

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- Money cannot bring back his ball.
- Hence a new ball cannot make him happy.

Q: Why does the poet decide not to console the boy?

a) The poet was busy with his poem

a) The poet knows that consoling will have no effect.

c) The poet was indifferent

d) The poet got an urgent phone call and he was busy.

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Line 10 - 14

A dime, another ball, is worthless. Now

He senses first responsibility)

In a world of possessions. People will take balls,

Balls will be lost always, little boy,

And no one buys a ball back. Money is external.

Vocabulary



- Possessions: ownership
- External: Here, things with which feelings are not attached

- The poet says to the little boy (in an imaginary conversation) that, in the world of possessions (i.e. the world in which we own things), people will take balls.

loss
Seeman @ Benaras

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- So, the boy senses first responsibility i.e. he learns the first lesson of his life i.e. we own things and we lose them.
- It will remain the same throughout our lives.
- **No one can buy a ball back because money is external.**

- No one buys a ball back because **money is external.**
- In other words, the poet is saying that no one can bring back the things which they lost because money can buy materialistic things but not emotions and attachment which one has with the things which they owned but lost.

Q: What does 'in the world of possessions' means?

a) In a world full of love

b) In a world full of greed

c) In a world full of materialistic things

d) in a world full of corruption

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b) In a world full of greed

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Line 15 - 18

He is learning, well behind his desperate eyes,
The epistemology of loss, how to stand up adult
Knowing what every man must one day know
And most know many days, how to stand up.

Vocabulary



- Desperate: hopeless ✓
- Epistemology: The Greek word episteme means 'knowledge' ✓

everything
awareness

- According to the poet, the boy is learning the epistemology of loss though his eyes are desperate i.e he is hopeless and sad.

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- He is learning how to stand up after falling down (because of the loss). sad

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- According to the poet, the boy is learning **the epistemology of loss** though his eyes are desperate i.e he is hopeless and sad.
- He is learning how to stand up after falling down (because of the loss).
- He is learning that every man must know (i.e. accept the loss) and stand up (i.e. move on).
- **This is the truth that everyone has to learn in his or her life.**

- This is the truth that everyone has to learn in his or her life.
- The harsh truth of standing up against the odd miseries of life that everyone has to bear.

sadness

Q: According to the poet, what is the child learning?

a) to bear loss

a) to take care of things

c) to be responsible

d) to be careful

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a) to take care of things

c) to be responsible

d) to be careful

HOMEWORK QUESTION

Q: Discuss the message of the poem

30-40w
1/10 students

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