THE BALL POEM

**Logo, company name

Description automatically generated**

**Summary**

1. **The Boy Loses His Ball:**

**The poem is about a young boy who loses his ball. Usually, losing a ball should not be a big issue. Young boys usually lose their toys and balls quite often. The ball is seen `merrily’ bouncing down the street. And ultimately the ball falls into the water and lost forever. The boy stood there sadly watching the ball go. But he was helpless. Nor could he do anything to get the ball back. The ball here symbolizes the innocent childhood of the boy which has slipped away, and he wants it back.**

1. **Other Balls Too:**

**It is of no use to remind him that it was not a big loss. He can get more balls and continue his game. But for the boy, the loss of the ball is a great loss. There may be other balls and perhaps he can hope to get any one of them. However, the ball that he has lost can’t be retrieved. It has fallen into the deep water of the harbor. The boy is inconsolable. He loses hope in himself and becomes depressed and hopeless. He stands still, trembling and looking at the point where his ball has gone down into the harbor. Here, the lost ball stands for the lost childhood and the harbor stands for the vastness of life. It will not serve any purpose to remind him that the ball costs just a dime and is worth nothing.**

1. **Recovering from the Loss:**

**But there comes a change in his mood and thinking. He realizes that in this world the loss is part of the game. He must take such losses in life in his stride. Achievements will follow losses in life. And a thing that is lost once can’t be retrieved or brought back. Money can’t buy the lost childhood, the lost dreams and the lost feelings back. Money is external to such losses**

1. **Standing Up:**

**The poet gives a message of hope and encouragement. Ultimately, he comes out of his depression and hopelessness. He must learn how he should stand up to bear the loss. The theme of the poem is that life is precious and should not be wasted. Life must be lived. And life can be lived purposefully and fruitfully only when we stand up and come out of depression**.

**Literary Devices**

**Anaphora: Use of repeated words in two or more lines  
- 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!**

**Assonance:   
- repeated use of vowel “o”  
- What is the boy now, who has lost his ball  
- repeated us of vowel “e”  
- He is learning, well behind his desperate eyes**

**Imagery: Merrily bouncing, down the street**

**Repetition: “What” is repeated, “Ball” is repeated**

**Asyndeton: A dime, another ball, is worthless**

**Alliteration: use of sound ‘b’ at the start of two   
 - consecutive words (buys a ball back)**

**Rhyme Scheme: None**