

The Ball Poem

- John Berryman

Q/A

Q1) What does John Berryman want to convey through this poem?

Ans) In this poem, John Berryman wants to convey the importance of loss and responsibility in life. We all should learn our responsibility and how to cope up with loss.

Q2) How does the boy feel at the loss of his ball?

Ans) The boy becomes sad after he loses his ball. He starts trembling with fear. He looks into the water helplessly. He

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gets so immersed in his sorrow that he keeps standing near the harbour for a very long time and kept on looking for his ball.

Q3) "Money is external". What does the poet mean by this expression?

Ans) The poet addresses the child to tell him that life will make him face many such losses of balls. The worldly possessions will not remain with him permanently. He will have to face the harsh reality that ~~very~~ people will take his prized possessions forever. Such irreplaceable losses are

inevitable.



Extrapolative questions:-

Q1) Why is it important for ^{everyone to} experience loss and to stand up after it?

Ans) It is important for everyone to experience loss and to stand up after it in order to be strong and to get on with life. One needs to stay strong ~~in the~~ no matter how much it hurts inside. Staying strong is the only way to survive. Moreover, one needs to learn to accept and let go and not cling to something that they can never have. One should understand that the past is gone and it will never come back.

Experiencing loss sometimes helps us to grow up and face hardships, like loss. This helps us in breaking all the boundaries into freedom.

Q2) Do you think the poet was right in not offering any condolences to the boy when he saw him in such terrible state after the loss of his ball?

Ans) The poet maybe wrong or right. But, according to me, he was right. He was right because if he offered any condolences to the sad boy, the boy would have not understand the 'epistemology of loss'.

Also, if he would have not understood it then, he would ~~used~~ use things carelessly and would lose them one by one. Moreover, One day the boy has to understand that what it means to lose something. ~~than~~ So, the poet is right.



Literary Devices:-

- 1) Metaphor:- a) The Ball (in the title) - it stands for all the things which are irreplaceable in our lives.
- b) His young days- he compares his childhood with the ball.



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2) Transferred Epithet :-

a) Desperate eyes - the eyes are expressing the boy's sorrow for losing the ball for good.