

Grandmother

Ray Young Bear



"Full Summary & Question Ans."

"The Grandmother"

By

Ray Young Bear

| Grade 12

1. Grand mother

-Ray Young Bear

Summary and Central Idea:

American Indian poet Ray Young Bear describes his grandmother through the poem 'Grandmother'. His grandmother is all loving and all inspiring. He says that when he saw her from a mile away, he would immediately know her because of her purple scarf and plastic shopping bag. He would easily know her hands which were damp and warm with the smell of roots. Poet's grandmother is dead at present, so, he goes to tell his mother to the grave. He realizes that her words are coming out of a rock, which flow inside him as a light.

The poet shows his deep love and respect to his grandmother. For him she was the source of knowledge and spirit. Her words flow inside him as great inspiration. From every sense organ he would immediately know her. Her warm and damp hands show how deeply she loved him. Poet equally shows his deep respect to the native land, which is in crisis at present due to white's encroachment (presence). Grandmother symbolizes the ancestry. Purple scarf and plastic shopping bag are typical objects related to Native American. Use of roots is the search of lost tribal identity. To feel the actual value of his grandmother and ancestry, poet uses sensory perception, which is as follows;

Sight: wearing a purple scarf and carrying a plastic shopping bag.

Smell: work in the field, hands with the smell of roots.

Hearing: sound from the grave stone and her inspiring words.

Feeling: her hands are wet and warm.

Short Answer Questions:

1 2076 Partial E Q. No. 2c

What impression of grandmother does the speaker give in the poem?

- *The speaker gives a loving, caring and inspiring impression of his grandmother in the poem, "Grandmother". The poet transmits the loving and caring impression by describing her shape. If the poet didn't love his grandmother he wouldn't know her quickly from the distance. He would even forget the type of scarf she puts on and the bag she carries on. Moreover, he wouldn't even remember her lively even after she has passed away. Similarly, the warm and damp hand he remembers indicates that he has loving relations. She perhaps would care him with love on his forehead after she returned back from the field. Again, the soothing and inspiring impression is seen evident when he says her words would flow inside him like the stirring ashes from the sleeping fire at night. More symbolically, we can also find poet writing about such a grandmother's impression who would guide and inspire him for the exploration of the identity of his own tribe. The grandmother so far described in the poem is not a naive old woman but a great source of past that could lead him to trade into his better future. Thus, the impression poet gives of his grandmother is not as simple as it appears to be. It gives an impression of American Indian grandmothers who always inspire their people for their identity.*

2. 2075 Set B Q. No. 21 [3]

**what is the theme of the poem
'Grandmother'?**

- *The main idea of the poem, "Grandmother by Ray Young Bear, an American poet, is love and reminiscence. The poem introduces the theme of love dipped in reverence for speaker's grandmother. At the same time he has the feeling of loss towards his grandmother as he hypothesizes the shape, voice, hands of his dead grandmother. To be precise, the poem is about the love and reminiscence of the speaker towards his dead grandmother whom he finds all loving and all-inspiring. The speaker expresses his love towards his grandmother by painting her picture in the poem. He has still the fresh memory of his grandmother, thus sketches her lively portrait in the poem. We see, feel and hear the poet's grandmother along with him. To another level of reading the poem, we find the speaker exploring into his own identity as a Red-Indian poet, Ray Young Bear is conscious of his past. Thus, the grandmother becomes an instrument to drive him into his past the time of harmony. Symbolically, the poet connects us to the oldest part of the earth. The phrase 'a voice coming from the rock and the smell of root' is a point in case.*

4. 2075 partial E Q. No. 12a.

What feeling does the poet express toward his grandmother?

- *The speaker in the poem "grandmother", written by American Indian Poet Ray Young Bear, seems to be attached emotionally to his grandmother who is already dead. Being nostalgic, he presents her portraits graphically. Revived by her love and inspiration, the speaker translates his feelings to his mother in this descriptive poem. Using the image as the technique, the poet expresses his emotions and love to the dead grandmother. The image of purple scarf, plastic shopping bags, and her warm and damp hand make us believe that he is emotionally attached to his grandmother. We also know that the speaker is emotionally attached to his mother when we find the speaker remembering his grandmother's caressing hands, her voice and image. Since he can't get the remembers her even after her death. The speaker finds his grandmother in reality now, he finds his grandmother in reality now, he remember her now*

2073 Supp Q. No. 2a

**How does the speaker feel towards his grandmother?
What words or images make his feeling clear? [3]**

- *In the poem "Grandmother" the speaker expresses his feelings toward his dead grandmother. He feels a sense of loss and is found to be deeply attached toward her. He finds her a source of love and admiration. So, he expresses his nostalgic feelings in the poem regarding his grandmother. He says he Would recognize her voice, her shape, feel her hands and smell her smell if he, happen to get her back. This deep love comes only out of the deep feeling of the poet towards his grandmother.*

12. 2057 Q.No. 2 b

What are the four things that Ray Young Bear remembers about his grandmother? [3]

- *While expressing his love to his grandmother, who is already dead, Ray Young Bear remembers her in terms of her appearance and activities. Attributing his imagination a pictorial account, Ray Young Bear remembers four things in the poem about his grandmother. The first of four things he remembers is her purple scarf and plastic shopping bag. Here, his sight guides him to memorize her. The second thing he remembers is her warm and damp hand which really results from his sense of touch. Next thing is the smell of roots in her hand. The speaker might have been moved by her routine work in the field. The fourth thing, poet remembers of his grandmother is a voice coming from the rock. Her words are still familiar to his grandson. Such reminiscence makes the poem typographical in nature which indeed is the result of poet's affectionate relationship with his grandmother in the past.*

8. 2070 Set C Q. No. 2

How does the poet express his memory and honor toward his grandmother?

- *The poet, Ray Young Bear, expresses his memory and honor towards his grandmother. His memory, love or honor expressed in the poem is dipped in the reverence for the grandmother who is already dead. The speaker expresses this by drawing her lively picture in the poem. Though dead, he remembers grandmother's appearance, her warm and damp hand and her voice. American Indian poet, Bear, expresses his honor towards her as he*

writes the Words spoken by grandmother would flow inside him like the stirring ashes from the sleeping tire at night if he heard her Voice. Artistically, the poet displays his love and memory embedded with honor in the poem. The way he remembers or memorizes her purple scarf, plastic- shopping bag, warm and damp hand, the smelling hands, the voice and her words make us believe that he memorizes her, loves her and respects her. Thus, the poet finds his grandmother as a source of love and inspiration. By drawing the picture of his grandmother which appeals readers' senses, the poet successfully expresses his love and reminiscence towards her in the poem.

2070 Set D Q. No 12 a

How does the speaker remember his grandmother? [3]

- The speaker, the grandson, remembers his grandmother in the poem. The entire poem is about how he remembers his grandmother. The persona- meticulously memorizes her even after her death. The poet's typographical presentation of his memory convinces the reader that he has not forgotten her after her death. The flash image of the grandmother is live in the poem. Thus, he remembers her not imaginatively but realistically. He expresses his remembrances by describing her shape, her hands so warm and damp, her voice coming from the rock. He also remembers her by displaying his love and affection to her. He finds her all loving and all inspiring. This strong bond with his grandmother perhaps has made him recognize, feel and hear her even after her departure. In short, by translating his feeling into a graphic image, he really, genuinely and accurately remembers his grandmother in the poem.

PARBIN KANDEL