



Dust of Snow – Revision Notes

Summary

- The poem describes a simple incident: a crow sitting on a hemlock tree shakes down snow on the poet.
 - This small event changes the poet's mood—he feels light-hearted and his day becomes brighter.
 - It shows how even a trivial act in nature can bring joy, positivity, and hope.
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Theme

- Power of Nature – Nature can heal, inspire, and lift our spirits.
 - Positivity in Small Things – Even a tiny event can make a big difference.
 - Change of Mood – From sadness to cheerfulness.
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Characters / Symbols

- Crow → Often seen as ominous, but here it brings positive change.
 - Hemlock tree → Associated with poison/death, yet in the poem it becomes a source of relief.
 - Snow → Purity, freshness, small joys of life.
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Message of the Poem

- Do not underestimate little things—they can bring happiness.
 - Negative symbols (crow, hemlock) can still create positivity → perspective matters.
 - Nature is a great healer.
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Literary Devices

- Alliteration → “Dust of snow.”

- Imagery → Visual of snow falling from tree.
 - Symbolism → Crow, hemlock, snow symbolize contrasts (death vs. life, gloom vs. joy).
 - Inversion → Word order changed for poetic effect.
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Short Questions & Answers

1. Who is the poet of *Dust of Snow*?

 Robert Frost.

2. What changed the poet's mood?

 Snow falling from a hemlock tree.

3. What do the crow and hemlock tree symbolize?

 They symbolize negativity/evil, but here they bring a positive change.

4. What message does the poem convey?

 Small events can make a big difference in life.

Long Q&A

Q1. How does the poet present the healing power of nature in the poem *Dust of Snow*?

Answer: Robert Frost shows how nature can uplift the human spirit. The poet was in a gloomy mood, but when a crow shook snow from a hemlock tree onto him, his mood instantly changed. This simple, natural act brought him joy and helped him spend the rest of the day positively. The poem teaches us to value the small, unexpected blessings of nature.

Q2. How is the poem an example of irony?

Answer: Normally, a crow and a hemlock tree are associated with negativity or bad luck. But in the poem, these very symbols bring about a positive change in the poet's mood. This contrast creates irony and highlights the theme that even seemingly unpleasant things can bring happiness.

Value-Based Q&A

1. What can students learn from this poem?

👉 To look for happiness in small things, stay positive, and find beauty in nature.

2. What does the poem teach about perspective?

👉 What seems negative at first can actually bring positivity—it's all about how we see it.