

## Unit-11 Lesson-3

**Poem: The Sands of Dee***(By Charles Kingsley)*

“O Mary, go and call the cattle home,  
And call the cattle home,  
And call the cattle home  
Across the sands of Dee!”

The western wind was wild and dank with foam,  
And all alone went she.

The western tide crept up along the sand,  
And o’er and o’er the sand,  
And round and round the sand,  
As far as eye could see.  
The rolling mist came down and hid the land —  
And never home came she.

“Oh! is it weed, or fish, or floating hair —  
A tress of golden hair,  
A drowned maiden’s hair,  
Above the nets at sea?  
Was never salmon yet that shone so fair  
Among the stakes of Dee.”

They rowed her in across the rolling foam,  
The cruel crawling foam,  
The cruel hungry foam,  
To her grave beside the sea:  
But still the boatmen hear her call the cattle home  
Across the sands of Dee.

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**Line-by-Line Explanation (English + Bengali)**

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**Stanza 1**

“O Mary, go and call the cattle home...  
Across the sands of Dee!”

- ◆ Mary is asked to bring the cattle back across the dangerous Dee estuary.
- ◆ মেরিকে ডাকা হয় গরুগুলোকে ফিরিয়ে আনতে 'ডি নদীর' বালুর চর পেরিয়ে।

The western wind was wild and dank with foam,  
And all alone went she.

- ◆ The weather is stormy, cold, and dangerous, but Mary goes out alone.
- ◆ পশ্চিম দিক থেকে আসা বাতাস ছিল স্যাঁতসেঁতে ও উত্তাল। মেরি একা রওনা দিল।

### Stanza 2

The western tide crept up along the sand...  
As far as eye could see.

- ◆ The tide rises steadily, covering more and more of the sand.
- ◆ জোয়ার ধীরে ধীরে বালু ঢেকে ফেলছিল, চোখ যতদূর যায়।

The rolling mist came down and hid the land —  
And never home came she.

- ◆ Fog fell over the land and Mary never returned.
- ◆ কুয়াশা নেমে এল, সব কিছু ঢেকে দিল, আর মেরি আর কখনও ফিরে এল না।

### Stanza 3

“Oh! is it weed, or fish, or floating hair...  
A drowned maiden's hair,  
Above the nets at sea?”

- ◆ Someone at sea sees hair tangled in fishing nets and wonders what it is.
- ◆ সমুদ্রে জেলেদের জালে সোনালি চুল দেখে কেউ ভাবছে এটা গুল্ম, মাছ, না এক ডুবে যাওয়া কিশোরীর চুল।

Was never salmon yet that shone so fair  
Among the stakes of Dee.”

- ◆ No fish ever looked so beautiful; it's clearly the drowned girl.
- ◆ 'ডি নদীতে' এত সুন্দর কোনো মাছ কখনও ধরা পড়েনি—এটা নিশ্চয়ই মেরির চুল।

### Stanza 4

They rowed her in across the rolling foam...

To her grave beside the sea:

◆ They bring Mary's body back from the sea to bury her near the shore.

◆ তারা মেরির মৃতদেহ সমুদ্রের ফেনার ভেতর দিয়ে টেনে আনে এবং সমুদ্রের ধারে তাকে কবর দেয়।

But still the boatmen hear her call the cattle home

Across the sands of Dee.

◆ Her voice still echoes in the wind — like a ghostly memory.

◆ তবুও মাঝিরা এখনও শুনতে পায়, মেরির কণ্ঠস্বর যেন বাতাসে ভেসে আসে, গরু ডাকছে 'ডি নদীর' বালুচরে।

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1. What task was Mary asked to do?
  2. How is the weather described in the first stanza?
  3. Why did Mary go alone?
  4. What danger is implied by the rising tide?
  5. What does "never home came she" mean?
  6. What was seen above the fishing nets?
  7. How is Mary's hair described?
  8. What is the significance of the line "Was never salmon yet that shone so fair"?
  9. What role does nature play in the poem?
  10. What literary device is used in "cruel crawling foam"?
  11. How does the poet create suspense?
  12. What is the tone of the poem in the final stanza?
  13. Why do the boatmen still hear her voice?
  14. How does the poet use repetition for effect?
  15. What emotions are evoked by the poem?
  16. What message does the poem convey about nature and innocence?
  17. How is imagery used in the poem?

18. What is the central theme of “The Sands of Dee”?

19. How does the poem portray tragedy?

20. What impression do you get of Mary’s character?

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1. **What task was Mary asked to do?**

Mary was asked to look after the baby while her mother went to fish. She was left alone near the sands to care for the child.

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2. **How is the weather described in the first stanza?**

The weather is stormy and wild, with strong winds blowing fiercely and rough sea waves. It creates a dangerous and threatening atmosphere.

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3. **Why did Mary go alone?**

Mary went alone because she was given the responsibility to watch the baby while others were occupied. She was left by herself near the shore.

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4. **What danger is implied by the rising tide?**

The rising tide implies the danger of drowning. As the sea water quickly covers the sands, it traps Mary, cutting off her way home.

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5. **What does “never home came she” mean?**

It means Mary never returned home alive. She was lost to the sea and drowned before she could reach safety.

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6. **What was seen above the fishing nets?**

Mary’s pale, lifeless face was seen floating above the fishing nets, showing that she drowned and her body was caught by the nets.

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7. **How is Mary’s hair described?**

Her hair is described as golden and shining, symbolizing her youth, innocence, and beauty.

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**8. What is the significance of the line “Was never salmon yet that shone so fair”?**

This line compares Mary’s beauty and purity to a shining salmon, emphasizing how rare and beautiful she was.

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**9. What role does nature play in the poem?**

Nature is portrayed as both beautiful and dangerous. The sea’s power is beyond human control and causes the tragic loss.

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**10. What literary device is used in “cruel crawling foam”?**

Alliteration is used here. The repetition of the ‘c’ sound emphasizes the threatening and slow-moving sea foam.

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**11. How does the poet create suspense?**

Suspense is built by describing the rising tide and Mary’s isolation, making readers anxious about her safety.

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**12. What is the tone of the poem in the final stanza?**

The tone is mournful and reflective, expressing sorrow and sympathy for Mary’s tragic fate.

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**13. Why do the boatmen still hear her voice?**

Her voice is remembered by the boatmen as a symbol of her lasting presence and the impact of her tragic death.

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**14. How does the poet use repetition for effect?**

Repetition emphasizes the relentlessness of the sea and the inevitability of Mary’s tragic end, increasing emotional impact.

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**15. What emotions are evoked by the poem?**

The poem evokes sadness, sympathy, loss, and a sense of helplessness against nature’s power.

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**16. What message does the poem convey about nature and innocence?**



The poem suggests that innocence is fragile and vulnerable, often helpless before the overwhelming power of nature.

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**17. How is imagery used in the poem?**

Vivid imagery describes the stormy sea, Mary's golden hair, and the cruel foam, helping readers visualize the setting and emotions.

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**18. What is the central theme of "The Sands of Dee"?**

The central theme is the tragic loss of innocence caused by the uncontrollable power of nature.

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**19. How does the poem portray tragedy?**

Tragedy is shown through Mary's sudden death, highlighting human vulnerability and nature's indifference.

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**20. What impression do you get of Mary's character?**

Mary appears innocent, gentle, and caring, but also vulnerable and helpless in the face of nature's dangers.

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