

English Term-2 Poems

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§1 Amanda

This poem is all about a child like me ranting about how parents are always acting around boss and bullying us every time about not studying and commanding and controlling us in such a manner that we feel so irritated and lost that we get the inspiration to write this poem.

This poem is written by **Robin Klein** and has a total of 7 paragraphs or whatever. The paragraphs alter between imagination of Amanda and her mother's scoldings.

Paragraph 1: In the first paragraph, we see Amanda's mother telling her *not to*

- bite her nails
- **hunch** her shoulders
- to stop **slouching** and sit straight up

Paragraph 2: Here she is imagining that she is a mermaid who is in a **emerald** coloured **languid** sea who is moving around **blissfully**.

Paragraph 3: This is time for homework which is one of the most annoying things to a child. Later she asked her if she had cleaned her room and cleaned her shoes or not.

Paragraph 4: IMAGINATION! This one is quite interesting. She said here that she is an orphan which is clearly not true. She is trying to make patterns in the soft dust with her *hushed*, *bare feet*. Another thing to notice is that she is thinking the opposite of her mother. At one side, her mother wants her to keep herself tidy and well-arranged whereas Amanda wants to play in the dust, without any worries. She also compliments silence as “golden” and freedom as “sweet”. Very ordinary stuff after the constant *nagging* by parents.

Paragraph 5: Don’t eat chocolate because of cavities and more importantly as a growing child, you do have to face acne. Also, always look at your parents when they are talking to you.

Paragraph 6: She is in another world right now. She says that she is Rapunzel and she does not about all the worldly affairs. She finds her life *tranquil* in her own dream world. She also denies Rapunzel’s idea of letting her hair down and escaping the tower and values the calmness in the tower.

Paragraph 7: Mother starts again! Her mother says that Amanda was moody and said her to stop *sulking*. She said that the way she was behaving, people would think that Amanda was *nagged* by her mother. Poor little Amanda couldn’t even say that it was indeed the case!

Glossary

blissfully Happily. 2

emerald Bright green color. 2

hunch To bend. 1

hushed Quiet and Still. 2

languid Relaxed. 2

nagged Harassing someone to do something. 2

slouching To sit or stand with. 2

sulking Being silent and bad tempered. 2

tranquil Calm. 2

§2 Animals

This chapter is about a depressed guy who is too weak to live in this world and says that he wants to live with animals, where there is no competition, and everything is peaceful. He will continuously say that animals are very good and they do not complaint about their situations no matter what happens. He feels very comfortable with those animals who stay as who they are without acting and giving false impressions. This basically means that he is fed up with life and wants to go to Himalayas and leave all the false people in the world.

This poem is written by Walt Whitman who is said to be a very nice and well-known poet. This poem is of about 4 paragraphs where the last paragraph is short and concludes the poem. I do oppose the poet at several points, but I do get how he feels. Let us begin.

Paragraph 1: He introduces us the notion of living with animals and starts to appreciate them. He tells everyone that animals are so **placid** to live with. They are also self contain'd which means that they are happy and never interfere with other's life. He keeps gazing at those lovely animals admiring the animals.

Paragraph 2 & 3: The poet here tell us about how animals live and what actually attracts him. Some things which is written in the textbook are:

- They don't sweat and **whine** about their condition.
- They never lie awake in dark and weep about their sins.
- Animals don't make the people sick by discussing their duty to god.
- Everybody is self-contained and is not obsessed with the mania of owning things.
- There is no respect for those who have lived for a longer age and is everyone is equal. Nobody kneels to each other.
- There is no one who is respectable or unhappy over the earth.

The poet addresses the fact that he feels that he had all qualities once in him.

Paragraph 4: In the last paragraph, he refers all the good qualities of a person as some tokens. He says that the humans might have dropped them a long back ago negligently. It could include qualities such as kindness, honesty, sympathy, and contentment. These tokens were then probably picked up by animals making them what he sees them as.

Glossary

placid Calm and peaceful. 3

whine A long high-pitched complaining cry. 3

§3 The Tale of Custard the Dragon

This poem is quite amusing but lengthy at the same time with 15 stanzas. We are not going to go through each of them but will rather try to give the main points. The poet of the poem is *Ogden Nash*. It is about a dragon who people teased to be very coward and a scaredy-cat who heroically saves everyone time of danger.

Question 1. Who lived in the White House?

Answer. Belinda lived with her pets in the White House. She had a little black cat, a yellow dog, a little grey mouse and a real dragon as a pet! Not to forget, she had a red wagon too.

Question 2. What and why did Belinda name her pets?

Answer. Belinda named her pets like

- Little Black Cat: Ink
- Little Grey Mouse: Blink
- Yellow Dog: Mustard
- The Coward Dragon: Custard

The reason for their names are obvious.

Question 3. Describe the appearance of Custard.

Answer. Custard was a dragon who had spikes on the top him and scales underneath. He also had big sharp teeth. His nose was more like a fireplace or a chimney because of the fire he breaths. Custards toes were no less than sharp daggers.

Question 4. Give a character-sketch of all the pets of Belinda.

Answer. We just split this into points:

- Custard was really coward dragon who wanted a nice safe cage.
- On the other hand, Mustard was a really brave dog. He was as brave as a lion in rage.
- Ink and Blink could chase lions down the stairs!

This tells everyone except Custard were very courageous.

Question 5. How did they treat Custard?

Answer. Custard was teased quite badly. He was tickled mercilessly by Belinda and was often called *Percival*. They all sat laughing seeing the pathetic condition of Custard. Ink and Blink rudely used to ask his age to tease him again.

Question 6. Describe the appearance of the Pirate.

Answer. The pirate had pistols in both of his hands. He had a cutlass bright in his teeth. He also had a black beard one leg was wooden.

Question 7. How did everyone react when the Pirate entered?

Answer. Everyone was frightened. Belinda cried help, Mustard fled from the situation, Ink ran away and hid in bottom of the household. Blink strategically hid in his mouse hole.