Vikram’s English Academy (ICSE)

**Std: VIII-EURO Notes: O Captain! My Captain!**

**Answer the following:**

1. **Explain the extended metaphor in the poem. OR Bring out the symbolism in the poem.**

Ans: In the poem, the captain refers to Abraham Lincoln, the then President of America.The ship refers to the US , the voyage refers to the American Civil War and the death of the captain refers to the assassination of Abraham Lincoln.

1. **Who is the speaker and whom does he address in the first stanza?**

Ans: The speaker is a sailor who is addressing the captain of his ship.

1. **What does the speaker tell his captain in the first stanza?**

Ans: The speaker tells the captain that the fearful trip was over and their fearful trip was over and they were successful in achieving their mission. Their ship was nearing the port and the people at the port were exulting.

1. **What are the people looking at and how has the vessel been described?**

Ans:The people are looking at the keel. Though the keel seemed to be steady the vessel seemed grim and daring.

1. **Explain: vessel grim and daring**

Ans: The ship has just returned from a war and the crew members have bravely faced it thus they seem to be daring. On the other hand they have also faced a lot of hardships and destruction so they are grim

1. **What does the sailor realise suddenly?**

Ans: Suddenly, the sailor realises that there are drops of blood on the deck and his captain is lying cold and dead.

1. **What does the sailor say to the dead captain? Name and explain the figure of speech used here?**

Ans: The sailor pleads to his dead captain to rise and hear the ringing of bells and to see the people rejoicing and praising the captain. The figure of speech is Apostrophe as the sailor is addressing the captain who is dead.

1. **What are the people on the shore doing?**

Ans: The people are crowding on the shore and celebrating the victory of their captain. They are ringing bells ,raising flags and playing the bugle. The people have brought bouquets and ribboned wreaths. They are calling out to their captain and swaying in large numbers and are eager to see their captain.

1. **What does the sailor call the captain? What does that tell us?**

Ans:The sailor calls the captain ‘father’.This tells us that he respects and loves his captain just like a father.

1. **Explain :it is a dream that on the deck, you've fallen cold and dead**

Ans The sailor addresses his captain as ‘father and keeps his arm beneath his head and says the above line. This shows that he just can’t believe that his captain is no more.It is an unacceptable truth.

1. **How does the sailor describe the dead captain?**

Ans: The sailor says that his captain does not answer him , his lips are pale and still. He says his captain , his father does not feel his arm and he has no pulse nor will.

1. **What does the sailor say about the ship at the end ? What does this signify?**

Ans: The sailor says that the ship is anchored safe and sound , it’s voyage has been completed. The fearful trip is over and the objective has been achieved and the ship has returned victorious. This signifies the fact that the American Civil War is over and their President had emerged victorious .

1. **Bring out the contrast in the last stanza.**

Ans: In the last stanza the sailor says that the shores which are brimming with the people of his country are exulting and the people are ringing bells and rejoicing. But the sailor is walking slowly and mournfully on the deck where his captain lies cold and dead.

1. **What is the theme of the poem? OR What is the theme of the poem?**

Ans: This poem is an elegy in which a sailor mourns the death of his captain. It is an extended metaphor which compares Abraham Lincoln to the captain of a ship. The theme of the poem is the death of Abraham Lincoln, a president Whitman considered to be quite remarkable. The poem also conveys the ending of the Civil War.

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