

## RJ's BLOG. English Literature - Poetry Notes

*Answer the following questions in about 40 words each:*

### **1. What does the title of the poem reflect?**

Ans: The title of the poem reflects how Lucy was educated, reared and treated by Nature as a mother through the girl child. It was done by exposing the child to the two opposite forces of Nature (Sun and Shower). 'Three years' also reflects the psychological interpretation of shaping 'the form of Lucy'.

### **2. Why is the title repeated in the first line of the poem?**

Ans: The title is repeated in the first line to show the importance of exposing Lucy to the two opposite forces for continuous three years. It also conveys the need to educate a child in the way it is supposed to. The purpose of the repetition of the lines is to emphasize the basic responsibilities of a mother without which a child cannot be educated.

### **3. What do you think is the symbolic importance of the word 'grew'?**

Ans: The word 'grew' in the title and the first line is the symbolic word. It represents the way Lucy was allowed to grow and educate herself freely in the lap of nature.

### **4. How is Nature personified in the poem?**

Ans: In the poem, Nature is personified as the mother to Lucy, a young child. She is also treated as a living embodiment of what a mother is. Nature is the finest example of a mother who considers her child as herself.

### **5. How is Lucy treated by Nature?**

**OR how did Nature treat Lucy?**

Ans: Lucy is treated as the Loveliest Flower that has ever been sown on Earth. The child is treated in such a way that Nature herself would take it to be hers, promising herself to make the child a Lady someday.

### **6. How does Nature make a comparison between Lucy and a lovelier flower that has never been sown?**

Ans: Nature as a mother to Lucy makes a comparison between her child and a flower, the flower which is lovelier than any other flower that has ever been sown on earth for her. She also treats the child as her own flower that she would give her all.

**7. 'This child I to myself will take**

**She shall be mine, and I will make**

**A lady of my own.' Explain the Idea. (2018)**

Ans: In the given line (from the first stanza), the poet shows how Nature treated Lucy. She was determined to take the child herself so that the child would be only hers. The lines also show how Nature would make Lucy a lady in her own ways.

**8. What does the phrase, 'law and impulse' mean to the poet?**

Ans: By 'law and impulse', Wordsworth means the guiding, inspirational and motivational force shown to Lucy to educate her. It also means to him the education the girl child was instructed by nature from conventional formal setup (law) and situational based learnings (impulse).

**9. How was 'law and impulse' shown to Lucy?**

Ans: 'Law and impulse' was shown to Lucy by Nature herself accepting the child as her most adorable. It was instructed to get hold of the two educative values by making a communion to the two opposite forces to feel an 'Overseeing power', to inspire others and how to put a check while exercising the power.

**10. 'Myself will to my darling be  
Both law and impulse'. Explain.**

Ans: The given extract (first and second lines of the 2<sup>nd</sup> stanza) explicitly shows how Nature guided, inspired and motivated Lucy to make her feel the 'Overseeing power'. Nature herself acted as the mentor, the guide and the caretaker of the child, that also with her heart and mind.

**11. In what way Lucy was given 'Law and Impulse'?**

Ans: Lucy was given 'Law and Impulse' by Nature herself discovering the two opposite forces – rock and plain, earth and heaven; glade and bower. She was allowed to feel the power that looks over anything in constructive way – how to kindle or restrain.

**12. "Shall feel an overseeing power  
To kindle or restrain". Explain.**

Ans: Nature herself mentored and guided Lucy affectionately to gain the power that looks over everything, on this universe. The child was also taught how to use the power to inspire others and to put a check of herself in using the power.

**13. 'In earth and heaven, in glade and bower'. Why was Lucy introduced herself in the given manner by Nature?**

Ans: To make the child learn the educative values of the poles found in her surroundings opposing forces. In one way, Lucy was allowed to discover and explore the positive and negative forces, earth and bower symbolizing the less bright side of life and heaven and glade the brighter side.

**14. What does earth and heaven mean to Nature?**

Ans: To Nature, the word 'Earth' symbolizes the known forces that surround her to be exposed to Lucy. On the other side 'Heaven' represents the unknown, undiscovered and unexplored forces that are not known to all.

**15. Do you think Nature was justified in allowing Lucy to be sportive like the fawn?**

Ans: Yes, I do believe Nature was justified in her decision. It was because allowing Lucy to be playing like the fawn made the child enjoy the extreme delight and happiness while she was playing over the green grass or up the Meadows in the mountain springs. Lucy could get herself the ecstasy of playing without any interference.

**16. The poet compares Lucy to a fawn. How is the comparison apt?**

Ans: The comparison is highly appropriate (apt) and suitable. It is because Nature allowed Lucy to be playful like a small deer (fawn) playing freely on the lap of Nature – across the lawn or up mountain springs. Lucy could get herself the ecstasy of playing without any interference.

**17. "And hers shall be breathing balm". How was Lucy educated as shown in the line?**

Ans: Lucy was instructed by Nature to play freely like a small deer on the lap of bountiful Nature – across the green grass or the mountain Meadows. There, Lucy was provided with the fragrant gentle breeze to make her natural in her approach.

**18. What did Lucy learn from the mute insensate things?**

Ans: Lucy had learnt the two most invaluable lessons from the silent inanimate things found in her surroundings. She had learned how to be still and gentle in all conditions of life, which made her an example of a composed character.

**19. What was the lesson Lucy was instructed to learn from the floating clouds?**

Ans: Mother Nature instructed Lucy to learn from the liberal character which is desirable to become an accomplished Lady. Like the floating clouds, she became a 'dignified' character who can adapt to any situations of life in different surroundings.

**20. What was the value that made Lucy improve her personality which she had learned from the willow bend?**

Ans: From the willow bend, Lucy had learned the lesson on humility, a personal trait which makes a person have magnetism. In her character, modesty ran in her inner being.

**21. How was the maiden's 'form' molded?**

Ans: The outward physical appearance of Lucy was shaped in such a way that her grace could never be shaken in the strife of life, in her difficult times. She was instructed to learn the three core values – 'dignity, modesty and gracefulness' which would be admired by all.

**22. "Grace that shall mold the maiden's form  
By silent sympathy". Explain.**

Ans: Here in the fourth stanza, Wordsworth describes how Lucy's outward physical appearance was molded. Nature wisely instructed the girl child to imbibe the most precious character, 'Gracefulness' which was supported by two other characters, 'Dignity and Modesty' that the child had learnt from the floating clouds and the willow bend respectively. Her grace could never be shattered by the motions of the storm.

**23. How did Lucy spend the nights?**

Ans: Lucy spent her beautiful nights by counting the stars of midnight and visiting beauties found away from the 'din' (noise) of life. She used to enjoy the nights in her 'Solitary Confinement' making the twinkling stars her sole companion.

**24. What could Lucy educate herself from the rivulets?**

Ans: From the small streams (rivulets), Lucy educated herself to inculcate the lesson of growing up without any external interference. She knew how to build up a strong character based on a solid foundation in which she could stand on her own like the small streams.

**25. “And beauty born of murmuring sound  
Shall pass into her face”. Explain.**

Ans: Spending her nights in the companionship of the stars of midnight and roaming into the unknown world where rivulets flow their ways without any control, Lucy collected the beauty of secret places and solitariness. It indeed, helped the child in building up her physical growth, the maturity passing on to her face.

**26. What are the ‘vital feelings’ of delight?**

Ans: The life-giving feelings of excitement, the fruit of those lessons from different sources found in nature supported Lucy in no small way to rear her form. It could make it possible to reach the stately height in making her virgin bosom bloom.

**27. How was it possible for Lucy to make her virgin bosom swell?**

Ans: It was the vital feelings of delight that Lucy was blessed with, which could make the child bloom her virgin bosom. The life-giving feelings made the child understand the joys and pleasure of education.

**28. What were the thoughts Lucy was given by nature?**

Ans: The ingredients of the most invaluable lessons beginning from ‘law and impulse’ till the ‘vital feelings of delight’ gained were the thoughts given to Lucy by Nature. Mother Nature could become successful in delivering those beautiful thoughts while she and the child were living together in the small happy valley, their abode.

**29. “Thus Nature spoke – The work was done”. What was the ‘work’ done?**

Ans: The ‘work’ was the incredible task of educating Lucy by Nature providing her all the joys and pleasures surrounding her. It was the work of making the child a Lady of Perfection.

**30. How was the work given to Lucy?**

Ans: Lucy was educated by Nature as a mother who guided and instructed what she could do to complete the task of educating her. She was provided with the joys and pleasures found in nature / naturally.

**31. How was Lucy’s race run?**

Ans: After her education had been completed, Lucy had an untimely prematured ‘Death’. Her life was cut short before her time, the ending of her life was heart-breaking.

**32. What were the things left for Nature after Lucy had expired?**

Ans: After Lucy had expired a pre-matured untimely 'Death', Nature's life was devastated. She was left the heath (barren uncultivated waste land), the calm (the gentleness), and quiet scene (stillness). The mother was left with the past recollections, the days gone by which would never come back again.

**33. 'The memory of what has been,  
And never more will be'. Explain.**

Ans: Lucy's untimely 'Death' left behind a living memory of the child to Nature which would 'linger' forever in her memory. Those beautiful moments the mother and child had spent together would be impossible to forget, but they would never come back again. It is the recollection part of the mother about the legendary Lucy's story.

*All the above questions and answers are referenced from the notes  
given by Sir B.K.*

*The notes are rewritten  
by Rajjit Laishram, author of RJ's BLOG.*

**RJ'S BLOG.**