

AMANDA

STUDY-NOTE

The poem describes a girl named Amanda and her mother who is nagging her for her mistakes. She is first pointed out most probably by her mother for biting her nails and for not sitting in the right posture. The mother also feels that Amanda sits in a very lazy manner.

- To this, Amanda imagines herself as a mermaid who lives a calm and relaxing life in the beautiful green sea. Further, she is nagged for not cleaning her room and shoes and also for not doing her homework.
- She then imagines herself to be an orphan because she is now fed up of being watched by her parents continuously. She says that she would have enjoyed her freedom then, by making the patterns of her bare feet on the sand and would live a peaceful life.
- Next, Amanda is scolded for eating too many chocolates as this causes pimples. She is also scolded for not listening to her mother.
- So, now Amanda thinks of being Rapunzel, a character from a fairy tale and wants to live in a huge tower like her. In the tower she will be alone and will live a peaceful life and will never allow anyone to come in.
- Finally, the mother asks her to stop being moody because she doesn't want anyone to blame her for harassing her daughter.
- At this time the poet has not written any reaction from Amanda's side. Amanda feels that her freedom is curtailed.
- She prefers to live in her own world where she wishes to be a mermaid, moving slowly, in a state of bliss, in the green-watered sea or imagines herself to be an orphan wandering in the street.
- She thinks that the silence is golden, the freedom is sweet. Sometimes she wishes to be carefree like Rapunzel and lead a life of calmness.

THEMES

Children are Innocent and Sensitive

● In the poem, little Amanda is very innocent and sensitive. Everyday she is insulted and scolded by her mother for not obeying her. Her mother asks her to do this and that. Amanda being sensitive, cannot bear the harsh words and instead escapes into imaginations. She imagines herself as superficial characters (those who don't exist) like Rapunzel, mermaid etc.

● She even desires to be an orphan i.e. without parents because she desires freedom, liberty, peace and quietness. It shows how her life has been restricted by her parents. The poem thus deals with a very important theme; freedom and liberty for children. Those who are brought up in restricted conditions are often moody and easily irritating.

Creativity of Amanda

● Little Amanda seems to be a very creative child. She imagines to be a mermaid (an aquatic creature with the head and upper body of a female human and the tail of a fish) in the slow moving, green and quiet sea. Next, she imagines to be an orphan and walk with bare feet as a free child. Imagine how creative she is!

● She also imagines herself to be Rapunzel and desires to remain in the locked castle (without a door) and does not want any human around her.

● Hence, the poet wants to show that a child is very creative. Most of the parents cannot understand or appreciate their creativity which the poet seems to be criticising in the poem.

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