

FIRST FLIGHT

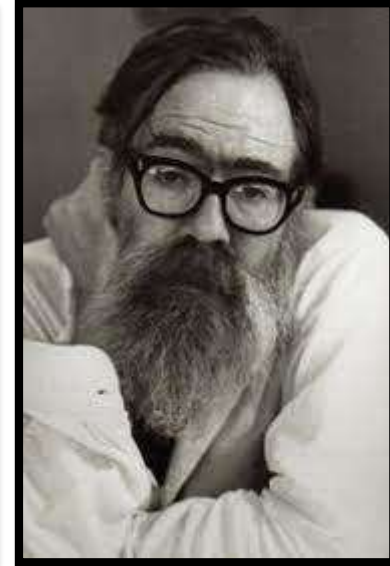
STD-X

SUBJECT : ENGLISH
CHAPTER NUMBER: 3
CHAPTER NAME : THE BALL POEM
BY JOHN BERRYMAN

CHANGING YOUR TOMORROW

INTRODUCTION TO THE POET

Born	John Allyn Smith, Jr. October 25, 1914 McAlester, Oklahoma
Died	January 7, 1972 (aged 57) Minneapolis, Minnesota
Occupation	Poet
Alma mater	Columbia University
Period	1942–1972
Literary movement	Confessional poetry
Notable works	<i>The Dream Songs</i>
Notable awards	National Book Award, Pulitzer Prize for Poetry, Bollingen Prize
Spouse	Eileen Simpson (1942–1956); divorced Ann Levine (1956–1959); divorced Kate Donahue (1961–1972)



John Berryman (born **John Allyn Smith, Jr.**; October 25, 1914 – January 7, 1972) was an American poet and scholar.

OBJECTIVE

- *To make the students learn about the loss of something they love.*
- *To make them learn to develop the ability to understand the difficult situations in their life.*
- *To help them not to grieve but to experience new things over the loss of something.*
- *To help them cope with the problems of life.*
- *To help them use new words in their own language.*

THEME OF THE POEM

In *'The Ball Poem'* Berryman explores themes of loss, growing up, and transformation. This is something of a coming of age poem that is seen through the lens of loss and suffering. The child comes to better understand the world through the recognition that he's never going to get his lost ball back. It is gone for good and there's nothing anyone can do about it. The child undergoes a transformation in the poem that is only hinted at. The speaker, who is the focus of the last lines, is on the other side of that transformation. He is in the harbor, in a place of loss, looking back at the child that he used to be.



STRUCTURE AND FORM

'The Ball Poem' by John Berryman is a twenty-five line poem that is contained within one stanza of text.

The lines do not follow a specific rhyme scheme or metrical pattern but that does not mean the poem is entirely without either.

For example, numerous lines, although not nearly all of them, contain five sets of two beats. Some of these are iambic while others are trochaic. Line two is a good example of how the stresses are rearranged.



EXPLANATION (LINES 1-4)

- In the very beginning of the poem, the poet seems to be sad. He wonders ***what is the boy now*** i.e. how the condition of the boy would be now ***who has*** just ***lost his ball***. So the first stanza tells the whole story.
- There is a boy who has lost his ball which he used to play with. The poet was watching him losing the ball. The boy is sad and so is the poet. The poet further wonders ***what , what is he to do?*** i.e. what he will do now without the ball.
- The poet says that he has seen ***it*** (the ball) ***go merrily bouncing, down the street, and then merrily over – there it is in the water.***



VIDEO-  https://youtu.be/Dnm1qda_1Nw

HOME ASSIGNMENT

- What is the boy now, who has lost his ball, What, what is he to do? I saw it go Merrily bouncing, down the street, and then Merrily over – there it is in the water! No use to say – ‘O there are other balls’
 - (a) What has happened to the boy?
 - (b) Why does the poet say ‘No use to say – ‘O there are other balls’?
 - (c) Which word means ‘happily’?
 - (d) Where did the ball go?

THANKING YOU
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