

My Mother At Sixty-Six

05/04/2021

- ① Where was the poetess going? Who was with her?
Ans The poetess was driving from her parent's home to Cochin and she was with her mother.
- ② How did the mother look like? Why did the poetess feel sad seeing the mother's appearance?
Ans The mother looked like an open mouthed, doze. Her face looked pale, faded and lifeless like a dead body because she had grown old. The poetess was feeling sad seeing the mother's appearance because her childhood fear haunted her again i.e., losing her mother one day.
- ③ Why does the poetess relate the mother's appearance to that of a corpse?
Ans The poetess relates her mother's appearance to that of a corpse because her mother's face looked pale, faded and lifeless like a dead body because she had grown old.
- ④ Why was the realisation painful?
Ans The realisation was painful because it brought a fear of separation from her mother and a sense of helplessness at her inability to do something anything for her mother.
- ⑤ Why did the poetess put that thought away?
Ans The poetess wanted to put that thought away because she wanted to put that

thought away divert her painful thoughts about her mother and she felt that this could be the last time with her mother. She thought that she would lose her mother at death.

(6) How does the poetess ~~put that thought away?~~ strike a contrast between what travelled with her and what moved outside?

Ans The poet has used beautiful images to highlight the stark contrast between the scene inside the car and the activities going on outside. The ashen face of the poet's mother is pale and lifeless. It looks like that of a corpse. She is ~~too~~ dozing and lost to herself. The image of the 'dozing' mother is contrasted with spilling of children. The 'ashen' and 'corpse-like' face is contrasted with the young trees sprinting outside.