

Thinking about the Poem

1. Why does the poet say, "I would not intrude on him"? Why doesn't he offer him money to buy another ball?

Ans: The poet says, "I would not intrude on him" because he does not want to intervene in the natural process of learning. He wants the boy to learn the meaning of loss on his own.

2. "... starting down All his young days into the harbour where His ball went..." Do you think the boy has had the ball for a long time? Is it linked to the memories of days when he played with it?

Ans: Yes, the boy has had the ball for a long time. When it bounces into the water, all his memories of the days of childhood flash in front of him. This led to a realisation that those moments would not

come back, just like balls.

3. What does 'in the world of possessions' mean?

Ans: "In the world of possession" means that the world is full of materialistic things. He owns everything and every action is made to possess something, whether it is the possession of land, property, money or any other thing.

4. Do you think the boy has lost anything earlier? Pick out the words that suggest the answer.

Ans: No, it seems that the boy had not lost anything earlier. The words that suggest so are 'He senses first responsibility in a world of possession'.

5. What does the poet say the boy is learning from the loss of the ball? Try to explain this in your own words.

Ans: The poet says that the boy is learning to care

up with the loss of the ball. He learns
that there are so many things in life
that are lost and cannot be brought back.
He is sensing the first responsibility as he
~~was~~ has lost the ball.