

The Ball Poem.

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Thinking about The Text →

Q1. 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 will not intrude on him" because he wants the boy to learn the meaning of loss on his own. He does not offer him money to buy another ball because according to him, money or another ball is worthless.

Q2. " ... Staring 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 bounced into the water, all his memories of the days of childhood flashed in front of him. This led to a realisation that those moments would not come back, just like the ball. He can buy new balls and can similarly create new moments, but those that are gone would not return.

Q3. What does 'in the world of possessions' mean?

Ans → 'In the world of possessions' means that the world is full of materialistic thing or anyone who is obsessively focused on money and owning luxury goods.

Q4. 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 possessions'.

Q5. 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 cope up with the loss of the ball. He is experiencing grief and learning to grow up in this world of possessions. He learns that there are so many things in life that are lost and cannot be brought back. He is entering or sensing his first responsibility as he has lost the ball.

Q6. Have you ever lost something you liked very much? Write a paragraph describing how you felt then, and saying whether — and how — you got over your loss.

Ans. Yes, I have lost something very valuable thing which I liked very much. It was a precious gift from my late brother. It was a small chain with a small pendant having our picture. I know I was really naive and a fool to lose such a thing. But at the end of the day we do make mistake. Either by knowing or by mistake. Here it is precious because it was the last gift or the last thing he gave and I could never get it back neither can I ever apologize to him for losing it.

I got over the loss by saying ~~to~~ telling myself that we humans do lose a lot of things in life and I was only a 7 year old when I lost it. But all that matters is not the pendant that I lost but the memories I had with ~~him~~ ~~there~~ him when he was here.