



INDIAN SCHOOL AL WADI AL KABIR
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH (2020-21)

WORKSHEET – THE BALL POEM

Class: X

Sub: ENGLISH

EXTRACT BASED QUESTIONS:

Read the following extracts carefully and answer the questions that follow:

Question 1.

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?

Question 2.

An ultimate shaking grief fixes the boy
As he stands rigid, trembling, staring down
All his young days into the harbour where
His ball went. I would not intrude on him,
A dime, another ball, is worthless.

(a) Where had the boy’s ball gone?

(b) How has the loss affected the boy?

(c) Why was 'he' trembling, staring down?

(d) What does the poet mean by 'first responsibility'?

Question 3.

.....Now

He senses first responsibility

In a world of possessions. People will take

Balls, balls will be lost always, little boy.

And no one buys a ball back. Money is external.

(a) What does the boy understand?

(b) What does the word 'balls' signify?

(c) What is meant by the word 'possessions'?

(d) What does "In a world of possessions mean?"

Question 4.

He is learning, well behind his desperate eyes,

The epistemology of loss, how to stand up

Knowing what every man must one day know

And most know many days, how to stand up.

(a) What is the boy learning?

(b) Why are boy's eyes desperate?

(c) What do you mean by 'epistemology of loss'?

(d) What every man needs to know one day?

SHORT ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS:

1. Express your views on the title of the poem, 'The Ball Poem'.

2. What is the theme of the poem —'The Ball Poem'?

3. A ball is an easily available, inexpensive thing. Then, why is the boy so sad to lose it?

4. What shows that the ball was valuable for the boy?

5. 'He senses first responsibility'—what responsibility is referred to here?

6. Why did the poet not console the boy?

7. What is the general rule of this `world of possessions'? Why is money `external'?

8. Does the lost ball stand for the metaphor of the boy's lost childhood? How?

9. Why does the poet say: 'No use to say 'O there are other balls'?

10. Why doesn't the poet want to intrude on 'him'? What does he consider the safest course?

11. What is the message that John Berryman gives to the readers in 'The Ball poem'?

LONG ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS:

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

