



QUESTION BANK – My Mother at Sixty-six

Class: X II

Sub: ENGLISH

**MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS**

**I. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow.**

I saw my mother, beside me,  
doze, open mouthed, her face ashen like that  
of a corpse and realised with pain  
that she was as old as she looked but soon  
put that thought away,

**(a) Where was the poet going?**

(i) To her parents' home

**(ii) To Cochin**

(iii) To drop her mother

(iv) None of the above

**(b) The poetic device used in 'ashen like that of a corpse' is:**

**(i) simile**

(ii) personification

(iii) metaphor

(iv) imagery

**(c) Why was the realisation painful?**

(i) The poet was going away from her mother.

(ii) Her mother was looking sad.

**(iii) It had a fear of separation.**

(iv) Her mother's face had turned pale.

**(d) The thought that the poet put away was one of:**

(i) love

(ii) sympathy

(iii) compassion

**(iv) concern**

**II. Read the questions and choose the appropriate answer:**

**1. In the poem, My Mother at Sixty-six, all that the poet did was smile and smile and smile...., Her smile is**

(i) sudden, in response to her mother's. (ii) meaningful and loaded with love.

(iii) accompanied with tears of farewell. **(iv) put on to cheer her mother.**

**2. What do 'the merry children' symbolise?**

**(i) vigour and happiness** (ii) confidence and energy

(iii) anxiety and despair (iv) excitement and eagerness

**3. Kamala Das uses the simile 'as a late winter's moon' to signify:**

(i) Shine and strength

**(ii) Gloom and decay**

(iii) Energy and vigour

(iv) Dark and cloudy

**4. Why does the poet say, 'see you soon, Amma'?**

- (i) to bid farewell to her mother
- (ii) in an attempt to get rid of her fear
- (iii) she is being separated from her mother

**(iv) as a reassurance to herself**

**5. The poetic device used in the last line is:**

- (i) alliteration
- (ii) paradox
- (iii) repetition**
- (iv) assonance

**6. When the narrator looked at her mother again she felt a pang of.....**

- (i) her familiar ache**
- (ii) guilt
- (iii) heartache
- (iv) a headache

**7. The narrator again compared her mother to-**

- (i) summer's sun
- (ii) rain clouds
- (iii) late winter's moon**
- (iv) trees and plants

**8. 'Children spilling out' is an-**

- (i) simile
- (ii) metaphor**
- (iii) personification
- (iv) transferred epithet

**9. 'Trees sprinting' is a poetic device. It is**

- (a) personification**
- (b) alliteration
- (c) repetition
- (d) simile

**10. She soon put that thought out of her mind and .....**

- (a) smiled
- (b) laughed heartily
- (c) cried bitterly
- (d) looked out of the window**

**11. The poetess says her mother looked pale like a .....**

- (i) corpse**
- (ii) ghost
- (iii) malnourished child
- (iv) anaemic person

**12. Which Rhyming scheme is used in the poem?**

- (i) coupled rhyme
- (ii) mono rhyme
- (iii) Alternate rhyme
- (iv) free verse**

**13. What does this narrative style of the poem signify?**

- (i) differing thoughts and realities
- (ii) many thoughts and illusion of love
- (iii) a single thread of thought mixed with harsh realities**
- (iv) contrasting thoughts and liberation from realities

**14. What was the poet's childhood fear?**

- (i) Parting from her husband
- (ii) Parting from her siblings
- (iii) Parting from her friends
- (iv) losing her mother**

**15. What does the poem revolve around?**

- (i) poet's fears
- (ii) poet's love for her mother
- (iii) Theme of old age
- (iv) All of these**