



Subject : English

Topic : **A Photograph**

Worksheet .No : **2**

Resource Person: Vincent Mathew

Date : _____

Name of the Student : _____

Class & Division : _____

Roll Number : _____

REFERENCE TO CONTEXT QUESTIONS

1. **Read the following extract and answer the questions that follow:** 3

The cardboard shows me how it was
When the two girl cousins went paddling,
Each one holding one of my mother's hands,
And she the big girl--some twelve years or so

- (a) What does the cardboard refer to?
The cardboard refers to the childhood photograph of her mother.
(b) Who was the big girl and how old was she?
The big girl was the poet's mother. She was then twelve years old.
(c) How did the cousins go paddling with mother?
The girl cousins went paddling with mother holding her hand.

2. **Read the following extract carefully and answer the questions that follow.** 3

All three stood still to smile through their hair
At the uncle with the camera. A sweet face,
My mother's, that was before I was born.

- (a) Who does 'all three' refer to here?
'all three' refers to the poet's mother and her two cousins.
(b) Where are they now?
They have gone to the seashore. They are paddling in the water.
(c) Why did they smile through their hair?
They smiled through their hair because they were posing for a photograph.

3. **Read the following extract and answer the questions that follow:** 3

.....A sweet face,
My mother's, that was before I was born
And the sea, which appears to have changed less,
Washed their transient feet.

- (a) Where was her mother?
Her mother was on the seashore with her cousins and posing for a photograph.
(b) When did this incident take place?
This incident took place when she was twelve years old.
(c) What has stood the onslaught of time and what has not?
The sea has stood the onslaught of time. It is still the same. However, her mother and her cousins underwent changes. Her mother grew up to be an adult and now



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she is no more.

4. **Read the following extract and answer the questions that follow:** 3

Now she's been dead nearly as many years
As that girl lived. And of this circumstance
There is nothing to say at all,
Its silence silences.

- (a) When did the poet's mother die?
The poet's mother died about twelve years ago.
- (b) What is 'this circumstance'?
This circumstance means the death of her mother.
- (c) Explain: 'Its silence silences'.
The loss of her mother is too deep for the poet. Now she has nothing to say at all.
The silence of the whole situation silences the poet and leaves her quiet.

SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS(30-40 words each)

5. What does the word 'cardboard' denote in the poem? Why has this word been used? 3
'Cardboard' refers to the photograph only. In the past photographs used to be fixed on a cardboard and hung from the wall for everyone to see it.
6. What do you learn about the poet's mother from the photograph? 3
The poet's mother had been a fun loving girl who had taken great delight with her cousins at the beach and had the fond memories of the holiday that she cherished even when she was a grown up.
7. Explain the contrast given in the last two lines of the first stanza. 3
The contrast is between the sea and the humans. The sea has remained the same for all these years, but the humans have undergone changes. Her mother grew up and now she had been dead for the past twelve years.

ASSIGNMENT QUESTIONS

1. Read the following extract carefully and answer the questions that follow. 3
Some twenty--thirty--years later
She'd laugh at the snapshot. "See Betty
And Dolly," she'd say, "and look how they
Dressed us for the beach."
- (a) Who would laugh at the snapshot after twenty—thirty years later?
(b) How did mother remember her past?
(c) Who were Betty and Dolly?
2. The three stanzas depict three different phases. What are they? 3
3. What are the different poetic devices used in the poem? Explain them very briefly. 3