

Class-XI
ENG
POEM-1
A PHOTOGRAPH

Q1What does the word ‘cardboard’ denote in the poem? Why has this word been used?

Answer

‘Cardboard’ refers to the photograph only. This word has been used because photograph it lost its colour and also clarity of its images.

Q2.What has the camera captured?

Answer

The camera has captured some happy moments from the childhood of the poet’s mother. It was a scene taken from a beach where she had gone with her cousins and her uncle for a sea holiday. The girls were paddling in the water.

Q3.What has not changed over the years? Does this suggest something to you?

Answer

The sea has not changed over the years. It is still the same. The sea symbolizes eternity. The poet’s mother laughed at the snapshot.

Q4.What did this laugh indicate?

Answer

This laugh indicates her remembering her past. She looked back to her childhood with nostalgia and remembered the innocent joys of her childhood days.

Q5.What is the meaning of the line “Both wry with the laboured ease of loss”.

Answer

The line refers to the sea holiday as remembered by her mother and the poet remembering her mother’s laughing face. Both these now belong to the past. Her mother is no more now.

Q6.What does “this circumstance” refer to?

Answer

This circumstance’ refers to the present situation of the poet wherein the poet is absorbed in the painful memory of her dead mother. Looking at the photograph and thinking of her mother’s laughter, the poet also realises that it has been the same number of years since her mother died as her mother’s age in the photograph.