



## THE BALL POEM

### Class 10 - English Language and Literature

Time Allowed: 1 hour

Maximum Marks: 50

1. What is the main idea of the poem **The Ball Poem**? [3]
2. When we think of losses, we generally think of people or possessions. Time is considered a very precious commodity.  
Explain why time can probably be one of the things people bitterly regret losing/wasting. [3]
3. A ball is an easily available, inexpensive thing. Then, why is the boy so sad to lose it? (The Ball Poem) [3]
4. What is the deep meaning hidden in the poem "The Ball Poem"? [3]
5. What feelings do you think, might be experienced, at the loss of a mobile phone, for a youngster today? Explain how these would be different from those felt by the boy in the poem. [3]
6. If the Buddha were to summarise the life lesson of **The Ball Poem**, what would that sermon be? Think and create this address for people of your age. [6]
7. The poem deals with a child understanding loss for the first time. Matches and championships too, deal with a different sense of loss. Explain how games and sports are a good way to train children to take losses in their stride. Answer in the context of the poem **The Ball Poem**. [6]
8. **Read the passages given below and answer the questions that follow them: (4 marks)** [4]  
People will take  
Balls, balls will be lost always, little boy.  
And no one buys a ball back. Money is external.
  - a. What is the meaning of 'people will take balls'?
  - b. What do the 'balls' refer to here?
  - c. Why is money external?
  - d. What do you understand by " no one buys a ball back"?
9. **Read the following extracts and answer the questions/complete the sentences that follow:** [4]  
An ultimate shaking grief fixes the boy  
As he stands rigid, trembling, staring down.  
All his young days into the harbour where  
His ball bent I would not intrude on him,  
A dime another ball is worthless.  
Now he senses first responsibility  
In a world of possessions.
  - a. Which word means 'happily'?
  - b. The boy feels trouble and stands rigid because he is thinking about \_\_\_\_\_.
  - c. The poet does not offer to give him the new ball because he wants to teach him the value of \_\_\_\_\_.

d. The boy senses first responsibility in \_\_\_\_\_.

**Question No. 10 to 14 are based on the given text. Read the text carefully and answer the questions:**

[5]

I would not intrude on him,  
A dime, another ball, is worthless. Now  
He senses first responsibility  
In a world of possessions.

10. The poet would not intrude because

- a. the poet was uninterested.
- b. he wants the boy to learn the real truth of life.
- c. the boy's mother would get him another ball.
- d. the poet had no money to offer to the boy,

11. Whose eyes are desperate?

- a. The poet's
- b. The boy's
- c. The boy's mother's
- d. A little girl's

12. Complete the analogy with an appropriate word from the given extract:

Valueless : Worthless :: Interfere : \_\_\_\_\_

13. What does the poet mean by **first responsibility**?

- a. To learn the rules of the game
- b. To concentrate on his work
- c. To climb a mountain
- d. To look after his things properly

14. What does "in a world of possessions" mean?

**Question No. 15 to 19 are based on the given text. Read the text carefully and answer the questions:**

[5]

"He is learning, well behind his desperate eyes,  
This epistemology of loss, how to stand up  
Knowing what every man must one day know  
And most know many days, how to stand up"

15. Why are the boy's eyes desperate?

- a) he is unable to find his ball.
- b) he has lost his ball and this is his first loss.
- c) he is looking for someone to help him.
- d) he is looking for his parents who would come and fetch the ball for him.

16. What is the meaning of the phrase **epistemology of loss**?

- a) It means to compensate for the loss.
- b) It means to understand that the loss way big.
- c) It means to understand the nature of loss.
- d) It means to repent for the loss.

17. What does every man needs to know one day?

a) how to stand up after his loss.

b) that everyone experiences loss in life but one has to be strong.

c) that one should be very possessive about things.

d) that money is an important resource and we can buy anything with it.

18. What is the boy learning?

19. Why are boy's eyes desperate?

**Question No. 20 to 24 are based on the given text. Read the text carefully and answer the questions:**

[5]

"...Now

He senses first responsibility

In a world of possessions. People will take

Balls, balls will be lost always the little boy

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

20. What does the poet mean by the line **He senses first responsibility**?

a) the boy should be responsible enough not to play with the ball on the road

b) the boy should learn to take care of his things on his own

c) the boy should learn to stay happy

d) the boy should learn to accept his mistakes

21. What has the boy lost along with the ball?

a) He has lost his childhood memories associated with the ball.

b) He has lost the faith of his parents.

c) He has lost all his playmates who loved to play with the ball.

d) the boy has lost his confidence.

22. What does the poet want him to learn?

a) there is no use of crying over split milk.

b) there is no use of wasting time on a small ball.

c) he should share all his things; joys or sorrows with his parents.

d) loss and gain is a part of life.

23. What does the boy understand?

24. What does the word **balls** signify?