

# St. Andrews Scots Sr. Sec. School

9th Avenue, I.P. Extension, Patparganj, Delhi - 110092

Session: 2024-2025 - Notes

**Class: X**

**Subject: English**

**Topic: Poem - Amanda (First Flight)**

**Answer the following questions:**

Q1. What message does the poet want to give through the poem, "Amanda"?

Ans. The poet wants to convey that parents in their endeavour to make their children well-behaved, and well-mannered give them too many instructions or nag (always finding fault) them. They should adopt a more appealing approach to 'reform' their children. Otherwise, they will stop listening to them and indulge in day-dreaming as Amanda did.

Q2. Why does she dream to be an orphan?

Ans. She thinks orphans lead a care-free life. There is no one to pester them with instructions. They can wander in a street and make patterns in the soft dust with their bare feet. They don't have to clean the shoes or room or do the homework.

Q3. Amanda is alone but not lonely in the world she envisions. Justify the statement with reference to any one image she pictures in her mind.

Ans. Amanda wants to live alone and away from her parents' dos and don'ts. She imagines herself as a mermaid who is drifting happily in the sea. She envisions herself enjoying her solitude, whereas a lonely person feels sad and upset. That's why, it is said that she wants to live alone and not lonely.

Q4. Bringing up teenagers can be both a challenge and fun. How far do you agree? Express your views with reference to Amanda's life.

Ans. Bringing up teenagers is truly challenging and fun. Teenagers can be rebellious and apparently hot-headed with a highly independent perspective. In such circumstances, yelling at them, and nagging them, as done in the poem with Amanda, will only make matters worse.

Forcing decisions on them only make them more detached, as we see in Amanda's case, where she wishes to be the sole mermaid, an orphan, or the lonely Rapunzel. To make things fun, one must become a friend where needed. Sometimes, one needs to get into the mind of a teenager, reflect on one's own teenage period, and empathise with the child. Life would be simpler and worthwhile, for both the parents and the teenagers.



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