

St. Andrews Scots Sr. Sec. School

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Session: 2024-2025 - Notes

Class:X

Subject:English

Topic: Poem-1 Dust of Snow

Q1. What does the poet want to convey through the poem, 'Dust of Snow'?

Ans. In the poem, 'Dust of Snow', the poet wants to convey that sometimes, certain moments or actions which are simple have larger significance. They can change the mood or life of a person. The way a crow shakes down the dust of snow on the poet inspires and gives him the idea to shake off his depressive thoughts, become cheerful and do something useful.

Q2. The poem evokes a sense of black and white. Justify.

Ans. The poet is set in all white surrounding. Everything is covered with snow. Amidst this white surrounding, a black crow appears and does something that clears the blackness from the poet's mind and heart. Hence, we can say that the sorrow depicts 'black', and happiness depicts 'white' in the poem.

Q3. The crow and hemlock are usually used as negative references in literature. How is this different in this poem?

Ans. The poet Robert Frost is trying to break the stereotypes that consider a crow and a hemlock tree as inauspicious. The poet has represented nature in quite an unconventional manner. He is trying to emphasise that even a crow and a hemlock tree can bring about positive change in a person's life.

Q4. What is a "dust of snow"? What does the poet say has changed his mood? How has the poet's mood changed?

Ans. The 'dust of snow' means the fine particles or flakes of snow. The sudden shower in the form of the dust of snow changed the poet's mood. The poet's mood changed from sad to happy. He felt refreshed and wanted to enjoy the rest of the day.

Q5. Our attitude towards a situation evokes both negative and positive responses. Analyse this with reference to the poem, 'Dust of Snow' to bring out the inherent valuable lessons.

Ans. Whatever situation life throws at us, it evokes both positive and negative responses. The poet in the poem, 'Dust of Snow' was in a sorrowful mood. However, when a crow shook down the 'dust of snow' on him, his bitter mood changed into a more optimistic one. No being in a sorrowful or bad mood already, the poet could have got angry at the crow also. However, the dust of snow becomes a positive medium of change for him. It made him cheerful to some extent and helped him forget his sadness, at least for a few moments. Thus, we see that instead of seeing the negative aspect of a happening, one should see the positive aspect, since one's response may greatly affect the outcome of incidents.

