

# St. Andrews Scots Sr. Sec. School

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

Session: 2024-2025 - Notes

**Class: X**

**Subject: English**

**Topic: The Ball Poem (First Flight)**

**Answer the following questions:**

Q1. Why does the poet say, "I would not intrude on him"? Why doesn't he offer him money to buy another ball?

Ans. The boy is really shaken at the loss of his ball. The poet says that he will not intrude because the boy must learn to understand and accept loss. The poet empathises this loss. He thinks that money cannot compensate for the sense of loss. So, he doesn't give the boy money.

Q2. What does "in the world of possessions" mean?

Ans. It means 'the world of materialistic things'. In such a world, one's possessions carry importance.

Q3. What does the poet say the boy is learning from the loss of the ball? Try to explain this in your own words.

Ans. The poet says that the boy is learning to live with his loss. In this world, loss is a fact. The boy has lost his ball. He is shaken by it. But the poet is trying to make the reader understand that everyone, young or old has to experience this reality of life, and learn to develop the strength to overcome the situation and move ahead in life.

Q4. A ball is an easily available, inexpensive thing. Then, why is the boy so sad to lose it?

Ans. The ball is an easily available and inexpensive item but the ball was valuable for the boy. His memories of young days are associated with it. It was not an ordinary but a special ball for him. No other ball could take its place. So, he is sad to lose it.

Q5. Why does the poet say, "Balls will be lost always"?

Ans. Here, balls are the symbol of man's possessions. Some things are dearer to us than the others. But nothing is permanent in life. We may lose our dear things. Then we suffer from a sense of loss. That is why, the poet says, 'Balls will be lost always'.

Q6. What is the main idea of the poem?

Ans. The main idea of the poem is 'the sense of loss'. The sooner man learns to accept it, the better it is. When we lose something, we feel very sad. But later, we learn to live with it. In this poem, the boy loses his ball and the poet wants him to learn the bitter truth of life.



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