

St. Andrews Scots Sr. Sec. School

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

Session: 2026-2027 Notes

Class : XI

Subject : English

Chapter- Childhood (Poem)

Answer the following questions

Q1. The poet has discussed two stages of life childhood and adulthood. How do we differentiate one from another?

Ans: Childhood has been considered by the poet as a blissful period in one's life, where a child trusts everyone. Adulthood is marked by rational and creative thoughts, ability to perceive and differentiate and learn new things. In this stage of life, one also learns to be double faced and crafty.

Q2. What did the poet realise when he crossed the age of eleven years?

Ans: When the poet crossed the age of eleven years, he realised that he had lost his childhood and had developed a mind of his own. He also found out the non-existence of Hell and Heaven. The poet concluded that Hell and Heaven were imaginary places because there is no mention of places like Hell or Heaven in Geography books.

Q3. Bring out the hypocrisy that the adults exhibit with regard to love. .

Ans: As the poet grew up, he could make out the double standards followed by adults. He realised that though adults preached of love and talked of love, their behavior was different and full of manipulation. They were all hypocrites who behaved differently from the way they talked.

Q4. What is the poet trying to convey when he says that childhood is hidden in an infant's face?

Ans: The poet says an infant is really innocent as he trusts everyone and does not try to fool others. The poet brings out this fact by contrasting it with the behavior of adults, who become manipulative and are hypocrites. As a person develops rational thoughts, his childlike innocence fades away.

Q5. Is independent thinking a step towards adulthood? If yes, then how? Explain with reference to the poem 'Childhood'.

Ans: Yes, independent thinking is a step towards adulthood. As a child, one is not able to make one's own decisions and one's thinking is always influenced and directed by adults. A child is so innocent that it is not able to distinguish between truth and imagination.

As a child's thinking is influenced by others, it has no individuality. Moreover, it is prone to manipulations which lead to fickle mindedness. Independent thinking makes us what we are. It shapes our personality and we are known among people through what our mind thinks and what decisions we take.

If we want to stay away from evil people who try to influence our thoughts for their selfish purposes, then only independent thinking can help us. We cannot claim to be an individual if we cannot take decisions ourselves.