

**St. Andrews Scots Sr. Sec. School**  
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**Session 2024-2025 Notes**

**Class: IX**

**Subject: English**

**Topic: Oh, I Wish I'd looked After Me Teeth**

**Q1) Reference To Context**

*I. To pass up gobstoppers.*

*From respect to me choppers,*

*And to buy something else with me shillin'*

**a) Who is being referred to and what should she pass over?**

**Ans)** The person being referred to here is the poet herself who is suffering from tooth decay.

**b) What are choppers? How can she respect them?**

**Ans)** Choppers are the teeth in our mouth with which We chop or chew our food. In particular, it refers to our molars.

**c) Explain the word shillin.'**

**Ans)** The word 'shillin' is a unit of English money. It is a small amount of cash and is usually the sum that an average child in England is given as pocket money.

**d) What would have happened had the poet taken precautions earlier?**

**Ans)** If the poet had taken precautions earlier, her teeth would have been more healthy.

*II. But up-and-down brushin*

*And pokin' and fussin*

*Didn't seem worth the time-I could bite!*

**a) Where are these actions taking place?**

**Ans)** These actions are taking place in the mouth during the act of brushing.

**b) What are these techniques used for?**

**Ans)** These techniques are used for brushing one's teeth.

**c) What makes these lines so appealing to the reader?**

**Ans)** The reader shares sympathy with the poet. That is why these line are so appealing to the reader.

**d) Does the poet regret for her mistake?**

**Ans)** Yes, the poet regrets for her mistake.

**Q2) What were the foods that were hidden perils' as mentioned in the poem?**

**Ans)** The foods that have been called hidden perils by the poet include toffees taken in large quantities, gobstoppers that were bought with her pocket money, lollies, sweet sticky food, sherbet dabs both large and small, and liquorice.

**Q3) What does the poet mention about being willing?**

**Ans)** The poet mentions that had she been more willing not to give in to the temptation of overindulgence in sweets that were harmful for her teeth, she would have had more sound teeth rather than those that had fillings in them.

**Q4) What is beckoning the poet?**

**Ans)** The poet recalls how she had jeered at her mother's condition, when she had lost all her teeth and had to wear false teeth. Then she feels that those artificial teeth were now beckoning her.

**Q5) Why does the poet regret? What message does the poet give to its readers?**

**Ans)** The poet regrets for neglecting her teeth. Although she ate more and more toffees, strawberries, lollies, candies etc, it severely affected her teeth. The poem gives a clear message to the readers she warns the readers not to eat too much toffees. Intake of too much toffees may lead to cavities in teeth. It might be disastrous.

**Q6) The poem illustrates the truth of the proverb, 'Look before you leap'. Comment.**

**Ans)** The poem is a glowing example of a careless attitude in life at a time when everything is going in one's favour. It shows the downfall of a person who is not careful about his actions today in the light of its results later on. It is not enough to live for the day because the future depends on how well we have for ourselves as neglecting teeth today will cause pain tomorrow. Being careless about brushing today can definitely lead to teeth decay later on as is seen in the case of the poet. Before we begin to overindulge in sweets or in other temptations the poem warns us to hold back and not give in to our weaknesses, because the consequences are painful.