

St. Andrews Scots Sr. Sec. School

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Session: 2025- 2026

NOTES

Class - IX
Teeth

Subject - English

Topic – Oh, I wish I'd Looked after Me

RTS -

1. “.....But up- and- down brushin’
And pokin’ and fussin
Didn’t seem worth the time-I could bite!”

(a) What do these lines convey?

Ans. The given lines convey that the poet did not realise the importance of regular brushing and proper dental hygiene when she was a child. She did not care for her teeth regularly. She thought it was useless and worthless to clean her teeth after eating anything.

(b) Why did the poet go to the dentist? How could she have avoided it?

Ans. The poet went to the dentist to get her teeth examined. She had developed cavities in her teeth due to unhealthy eating habits and irregular brushing of teeth. She could have avoided this visit if she had taken proper care of her teeth during childhood by brushing them properly and regularly.

(c) “If you got a tooth, you got a friend”; what do you understand from the line?

Ans. A tooth is like a friend. As a lost friend can never come back, a lost tooth never grows again. It cannot be regained or made naturally.

2. “I wish I had been that much more willin’
When I had more tooth there than fillin’
To pass up gobstoppers.

From respect to me choppers,
And to buy something else with me shellin.”

(a) What does the word **Gobstoppers** mean?

Ans. **Gobstoppers** are large hard sweets.

(b) What happened to the poet's teeth when she continued eating all kinds of sweets?

Ans. When she continued eating all kinds of sweets, her teeth decayed and needed fillings.

(c) Explain, **from respect to me choppers**.

Ans. This line suggests that she should have paid more attention to her teeth by reducing her eating of sweets.

(d) What is the tone of the extract?

Ans. The tone of the extract is 'regret'.

3. **"My mother, she told me no end,
'If you got a tooth, you got a friend.'
I was young then, and careless,
My toothbrush was hairless,
I never had much time to spend."**

(a) What does the mother mean when she says that teeth are like friends?

Ans. The mother means that if we lose tooth we can never get it back naturally. The same happens with a friend.

(b) Why did the poet not have time to spend?

Ans. The poet did not spend time on brushing her teeth or replacing her toothbrush when it was worn out because she felt that these things were not important.

(c) What is meant by the phrase **no end**?

Ans. This phrase means **many times** or **repeatedly**.

(d) What is the opposite of **spend**?

Ans. The opposite of **spend** is **earn**.

Q/Ans-

1. **How does the poet feel while lying in the 'old dentist's chair'?**

Ans. The very idea of the dentist drill digging and poking her teeth makes the poet shiver in pain. While lying in the dentist chair she feels very helpless and miserable. Owning the responsibility of ruining her own teeth she is full of regret and blames herself for her misery but it is too late.

2. **What had happened to the poet's mother's teeth and how had she behaved at that time?**

Ans. The poet's mother had false teeth. As a child, the poet had all her teeth intact, sound and healthy, hence her mother's teeth in a bowl amused her. She used to ridicule her mother's false teeth.

3. **Justify the title "Oh, I wish I had looked after my teeth."**

Ans. The title is apt as it conveys the poet's regret at having damaged her teeth due to her negligence. The poet, Pam Ayres, has deliberately used a clause rather than a phrase to explicitly underline her sense of remorse at her irresponsible approach and carelessness. The use of 'Oh' brings out the sense of helplessness of the poet.