



BAL BHARATI PUBLIC SCHOOL, PITAMPURA, DELHI - 110034

SUBJECT:-ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

Class- X

Topic : Poem 'Dust of Snow' by Robert Frost



Robert Frost

Robert Frost was an American poet who depicted realistic New England life through language and situations familiar to the common man. He won four Pulitzer Prizes for his work and spoke at John F. Kennedy's 1961 inauguration.

Introduction

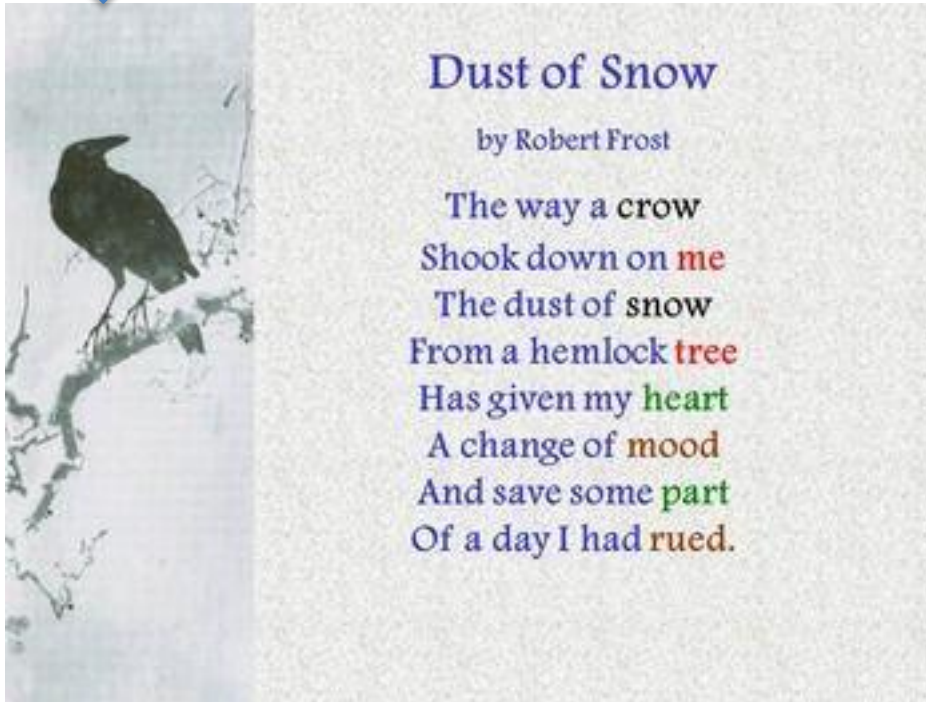
The poem "Dust of Snow" by Robert Frost is a simple and short poem, yet with a deeper and larger meaning. The poet explains how an act as petty as experiencing snow on one's body can brighten one's day up. The message of the poem is put into words by Robert Frost:

*"Always, always a larger significance...
A little thing touches a larger thing."*

Learning outcomes :

- Identify the poetic devices.
- Examine the role of nature in one's life.
- Critically analyse the importance of small things in life.

The poem



Poem with Explanation



The way a crow
Shook down on me
The dust of snow
From a hemlock tree

Explanation : The poem is set in a scene where the poet is in a bad mood and is walking by a tree, a hemlock tree. Hemlock tree is a poisonous tree. As he passes by, a crow happens to throw some snow dust on him. Whether it falls on his head or shoulders is unknown as there is no specific mention in the poem. Also, the readers are left in doubt about the bird's specific action. Whether the crow was landing, shivering with cold, re-adjusting itself on the branch or taking off, it happened to send some particles of snow upon the author. Here, the two agents of nature, the hemlock tree and the crow signify sadness and gloom just like the poet's mood was in the opening scene.

Has given my heart
A change of mood
And saved some part
Of a day I had rued.

Explanation : For reasons unknown, the author was having a terrible day. But the falling of the snow on his head lifted his mood instantly. He had already spent his day in a bad mood but the rest of it was saved by the crow and the hemlock tree. Generally, hemlock tree and crow are used for negative references but the poet used them beautifully to portray that even inauspicious things can bring joy and happiness. One must not take things for granted and should be open and accept whichever way nature chooses to bless us.

Hemlock	a poisonous tree with small white flowers
Rued	held in regret

Link for reference videos:

https://www.diksha.gov.in/cbse/play/collection/do_31279645530144_7680117634?contentType=TextBook&contentId=do_31279569957168_7424110323

The poem 'Dust of Snow' by Robert Frost has **multiple figures of speech**, namely Metaphor, Alliteration and Synecdoche.

- **Metaphor** is used when the poet compared the falling snow flakes from hemlock tree to dust.
- **Alliteration** is used in the lines 'Has given my heart' and 'And saved some part', as same consonants are used repeatedly in those lines.
- **Synecdoche** is used when the poet said his 'heart' had undergone a change in mood, which actually represented his entire personality.

Dust of Snow has as its main themes:

- communication between nature and humans
- nature healing and helping with negative human emotions
- the significance of small natural events

Assignment Questions

All the questions are to be done in the fair notebook.

I. Short Answer Questions :

- a) What is the role of nature in the poem?
- b) How did the poet feel before the dust of snow fell on him?
- c) Bring out the significance of the 'crow' and the 'hemlock'.
- d) Infer the central idea of the poem.
- e) Describe the 'crow' and the 'hemlock'.
- f) Identify the rhyme scheme of the poem.

II. Have there been times when you felt depressed and hopeless? Have you ever experienced a similar moment that changed your mood ? Try to weave your feelings in a poem or write a paragraph to describe your feelings.

III. Give the noun form of the following words:

- a) mood
- b) save
- c) give
- d) dusty
- e) shook

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