

Class - ix

Subject - English

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### Summary of Rain on the Roof-

This is the rain on the roof summary in which the poet tries to describe how he feels on a rainy day. The poet states that whenever it rains he starts to recall all his past memories. While lying on his bed in the cottage he listens to the pitter-patter sound of the rain. As he listens to the sound of the rain he starts to remember his old days when he was a little boy. Further, he remembers her mother who is not with him now, but her memories will always be with him. In addition, he remembers how her mother takes care of him during the rainy days so that he might not catch a cold. While listening to the sound of the rain, he remembers all the sweet memories of his past.

In this poem, the poet says that when the humid shadows drift (here, 'humid shadows' means dark clouds full of water). He says that when the sky is full of dark clouds which have moisture, and are full of water and are about to bring rain. Further, when these clouds float around the sky over the starry spheres (refers to the sky at night time that is full of stars).

Then, huge clouds that are full of moisture move around in the sky. And the raindrops that seem like a tear falling from the sky wipe the sad darkness of the night. Moreover, the poet is comparing the raindrops to tears as to him the dark sky seems very sad. Also, it appears as if it is weeping and the raindrops are the tears shed by it. He further adds that it is like a blessing to lie on the bed in his room. And listen to the sound made by raindrops falling on the roof.

In the next part, the poet expresses his feelings when he hears the raindrops falling on the roof of his house. Poet says that every tinkle on the shingles has an echo in the heart. Whenever he hears raindrops falling on the rooftop its sound repeats in his heart and in his dreams. Further, he has many different and fantastic imaginations. Also, the falling drops of rain on the rooftops creates many new different dreams in his mind. For instance, he recollects many memories of the past which come back into his mind as dreams. Hence, he listens to the patter of the rain upon the roof, he has many new dreams in his mind. And his memories of the past come back in the form of dreams.

In the last paragraph, the poet introduces his mother and says that he is dreaming of his mother. As in the previous stanza that rain brings memories of the past. They were the memory of his mother who is no longer alive. Long ago, his mother used to love him a lot and she used to consider him a darling. Also, she would let him sleep until daybreak and have sweet dreams. As he listens to the song made by the raindrops falling on the rooftop of his room he feels that his mother is looking at him. Moreover, the sound of rain makes him correlate his past with his present. That's the reason he was so moved by the sound of the raindrops on the shingles of his

room. Every time he hears this sound it brings back memories of the past as he reminds of his mother.

### Rain on the Roof Poem Explanation-

#### Stanza 1

When the humid shadows hover  
Overall the starry spheres  
And the melancholy darkness  
Gently weeps in rainy tears,  
What a bliss to press the pillow  
Of a cottage-chamber bed  
And lie listening to the patter  
Of the soft rain overhead!

Humid: something which is full of moisture.

'shadows' refers to the moisture-laden clouds which cast a shadow on the earth.

hover: Move around something

melancholy: sad

bliss: Happiness

patter: the sound of raindrops falling on the roof.

Cottage chamber means the bedroom.

The poet is saying that when the humid shadows hover (here, 'humid shadows' refers to dark clouds which are full of water). The poet is saying that when the sky is full of these clouds which are moisture-laden, are full of water, and are about to bring rain when such clouds hover around in the sky, overall the starry spheres ('starry spheres' refers to the sky at night time which is full of stars).

At that time, huge clouds which are full of moisture, move around in the sky and the sad darkness of the night is wiped off by the raindrops which seem like tears falling from the sky.

The poet is comparing raindrops to tears and he says that the dark sky which seems to be very sad, it appears as if it is crying and the raindrops are the tears shed by it. He adds that it is like a blessing to lie on the bed in his room (Cottage chamber means bedroom) and listens to the sound made by raindrops falling on the roof.

#### Stanza 2

Every tinkle on the shingles  
Has an echo in the heart;

And a thousand dreamy fancies  
Into busy being start,  
And a thousand recollections  
Weave their air-threads into woof,  
As I listen to the patter  
Of the rain upon the roof.

tinkle: short, light ringing sound

shingles: rectangular wooden tiles used on roofs

echo: repeated sound

woof: weft, i.e. the thread woven across the loom

patter: the sound of raindrops falling on the roof

'busy being' refers to human beings and here, the poet is referring to himself

The poet is expressing his feelings when he hears the raindrops falling on the rooftop of his house. He says that every tinkle on the shingles has an echo in the heart.

Whenever he hears rain falling on the rooftop, the sound repeats in his heart, and in his dreams, he has many different, fanciful imaginations. He adds that this sound of the rain falling on the rooftop creates many new different dreams in his mind.

He recollects many memories of the past which come back into his mind as dreams. So, he says that as he listens to the patter of the rain upon the roof, he has many new dreams in his mind and the memories of the past come back in the form of dreams.

### Stanza 3

Now in memory comes my mother,  
As she used in years ago,  
To regard the darling dreamers  
Ere she left them till the dawn:  
O! I feel her fond look on me  
As I list to this refrain  
Which is played upon the shingles  
By the patter of the rain.

ere: old poetic word for 'before'

dawn: day break

list: old poetic word for 'listen'

refrain: a repeated part of a song or a poem; here, the sound of the rain

Here, the poet introduces his mother. He says that he is dreaming of his mother. As he had told in the previous stanza that rain brings memories of the past – it is the memory of his mother who is no longer alive.

In the past, she used to love him a lot, she used to consider him a darling and she would let him sleep till daybreak and have sweet dreams.

The poet can still feel that his mother is looking at him as he listens to the song made by the raindrops falling on the rooftop of his room.

The sound of the rain makes him correlate his past with his present. That is why the poet is moved by the sound of the raindrops on the shingles of his room. Whenever he hears this sound it brings back memories of the past and he is reminded of his mother.

Question 1.

What do the following phrases mean to you? Discuss in class.

humid shadows

starry spheres

what a bliss

a thousand dreamy fancies into busy being start

a thousand recollections weave their air-threads into woof

Answer:

Humid shadows: These are the shadows of different things which become wet during the rainy season.

Starry spheres: The area where stars appear in a group in the sky.

What a bliss: The poet feels happy when he listens to the rain drops.

A thousand dreamy fancies into busy being

start: The poet starts recollecting the past and finds himself lost in reveries and dreams in the rainy weather.

A thousand recollections weave their air-threads into woof: The poet recollects hundreds of memories in the rainy season. They weave a weft with the help of air-threads.

Question 2.

What does the poet like to do when it rains?

Answer:

When it rains the poet wants to lie on bed in a cottage and listen to pitter-patter sound of the rain.

Question 3.

What is the single major memory that comes to the poet's mind? Who are the "darling dreamers" he refers to?

Answer:

The poet's mother is the single major memory that comes to his mind. 'Darling dreamers' are those 'kids' who remember their mothers like the poet.

Question 4.

Is the poet now a child? Is his mother still alive?

Answer:

No, the poet is not a child. His mother is no more. But her memories still haunt him.