

**CBSE TEST PAPER-03**  
**Class 12 English Core (My Mother at Sixty-Six)**

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**General Instructions:-**

- All questions are compulsory.
  - Question No.1 to 3 carries 4 marks each.
  - Question No. 4 to 10 carries 3 marks each.
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1. Read the following passage and answer the questions:

and looked out  
at Young Trees sprinting,  
the merry children spilling  
out of their homes,

- a. Why did the poet look out?
- b. Where did she look out?
- c. What is the figure of speech used in the 2nd line?
- d. What is the meaning of word 'sprinting'?

2. Read the following passage and answer the questions:

but after the airport's security check,  
standing a few yards away,  
I looked again at her,  
wan, pale as a late winter's moon

- a. What is the figure of speech used in the last line?
- b. Who is her in the third line?
- c. Why did she go for the airport's security check?
- d. What does 'wan' mean?

3. Driving from my parent's home

to Cochin last Friday morning,  
I saw my mother, beside me,  
doze, open mouthed, her face  
ashen like that of a corpse  
and realised with pain

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- a. Why was the mother dozing?
  - b. Why was her mouth open?
  - c. What is 'ashen like'?
  - d. Which pain she realized?
4. Where was the poet going to?
  5. Why has the mother been compared to late winter's moon?
  6. Why has the poet used words like wan and pale to describe her mother's color?
  7. She says, 'my childhood fear'. What's the fear?
  8. Poet has compared her mother to a corpse. Was she right in her comparison?
  9. Have you ever seen sprinting trees, explain?
  10. How has the poet contrasted the scene inside the car with the activities going outside?

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**[Answers]**

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1.
  - a. The poet looked out to divert her thoughts from her mother to mother nature.
  - b. She looked out of the window to get some solace and peace from her thoughts.
  - c. The figures of speech used in the 2nd line is personification and metaphor.
  - d. The meaning of word 'sprinting' is running at a high speed or short fast run.
2.
  - a. The figure of speech used in the last line is simile (as).
  - b. Her in the third line is the mother of the poet.
  - c. She went for the airport's security check to board a plane to go to her home.
  - d. 'wan' means 'pale or colorless complexion or appearance of a person giving the impression of illness or exhaustion'.
3.
  - a. The mother was dozing because she was tired, wearied and emotionally drained out and didn't want to disturb her daughter.
  - b. Her mouth was open because she was taking a nap. Some people sleep with mouth open when they have lost their teeth.
  - c. 'Ashen like' is the pale or dull or ash like color of a person who is sick and wearied.
  - d. She realized with pain that this was her permanent separation from her mother.
4. The poet was going to her home in some other town leaving her mother at her village near Cochin. She appears to be married and had her own family. She had to fulfill those responsibilities too.
5. A late winter's moon is dull and without shine covered by clouds or haziness of the atmosphere. The four seasons are related to four stages of life. Spring is the childhood, summer is adulthood, autumn is old age and winter is death. Thus, the mother has been compared to late winter's moon.
6. The poet has used words like wan and pale to describe her mother's color because she is sick, lacked energy and showed the signs of death. These words give expression that the person is sick/ill and exhausted.
7. The poet had her childhood's fear, fear of separation, be it a temporary or permanent. She seems to be single child of her parents. She had undergone many suppressed emotions right from her childhood. These suppressed emotions led to the fear.
8. Poet has compared her mother to a corpse. she was right in her comparison as the

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physical condition of her mother was not very assuring. While sitting with her in the car, rather than talking to her, she was dozing. Her color had paled, and exhaustion was visible. Thus, the comparison.

9. Yes, we see sprinting trees when we are moving in a car, train or bus. Trees don't sprint, but the visual effect of speeding vehicle gives the illusion that the trees are running in opposite direction. The poet has brought this comparison to show the energy of youth against the exhaustion and weariness of old age.
10. The poet has compared the scene inside the car with that of the activities going outside. She has used stark images to contrast lively 'sprinting' of children outside with lifeless face of her mother. The 'ashen' face of her mother is pale and lifeless like corpse. She was dozing off and was lost in herself. The 'ashen' and 'corpse-like' face is compared with the young trees 'sprinting' outside.