

## Grade X

### Poem 6 AMANDA!

#### Main Points of the Poem

- ❖ The little girl Amanda is biting her nails.
- ❖ Her mother asks her not to do it
- ❖ Amanda is putting her shoulders down to one side.
- ❖ Her mother asks her to lift up her shoulders and adopt the right posture.
- ❖ Amanda seems to be stooping on one side.
- ❖ Her mother asks her to sit up straight.
- ❖ Amanda doesn't bother what her mother says.
- ❖ She is lost in a world of dreams and fantasy.
- ❖ She imagines herself as a mermaid.
- ❖ She lies in a peaceful emerald sea all blissfully like a mermaid.
- ❖ She is moving all around freely and blissfully like a mermaid.
- ❖ Amanda's mother asks if she finished her homework.
- ❖ She asks if she has made her room tidy and clean.
- ❖ Amanda's mother reminds her that she instructed her to clean her shoes and she hasn't done so.
- ❖ Amanda doesn't care a bit what her mother says to her.
- ❖ She is again in the world of dreams and fantasy.
- ❖ She prefers to be an orphan than living such a life.
- ❖ She wants to roam around the streets freely and aimlessly.
- ❖ She wants to walk on the soft dust with her bare feet.
- ❖ The pressing of the feet will create designs on the soft dust.
- ❖ She loves silence, and freedom is the sweetest thing that she values in her life.
- ❖ Again, Amanda's mother stops her from eating chocolate.
- ❖ She must remember that eating chocolate might cause her some problem.
- ❖ Her mother reminds her to observe good manners.
- ❖ She must not look the other way when her mother is speaking to her.
- ❖ Again, Amanda ignores her mother.
- ❖ She imagines herself as Rapunzel living in a tower where there is a reign of peace and tranquillity.
- ❖ Amanda is proud of her beautiful hair and would not let them down like Rapunzel.
- ❖ Amanda's mother calls her moody.
- ❖ She asks her to stop being sulky and unhappy at once.
- ❖ If she remains unhappy, people will think that her mother has been nagging her.

## Multiple choice questions

Read the following extracts and answer the questions/complete the sentences that follow:

I. I am an orphan, roaming the street.

I pattern soft dust with my hushed, bare feet.

The silence is golden, the freedom is sweet.

1. The tone of the given lines is:

A. analytical.

B. despairing.

C. peaceful.

D. nervous.

2. Read the statements A and B given below, and choose the option that correctly evaluates these statements.

Statement A - The figure 'I' imagines a less than realistic view of being an orphan.

Statement B - The figure 'I' does not like the speaker.

A. A is true, B is false, according to the extract

B. A is true, B cannot be clearly inferred from the extract.

C. A cannot be clearly inferred from the extract, B is false.

D. A is true and can be inferred from the poem, B is true too.

3. The golden silence is contrasted with the \_\_\_\_\_.

A. chaos of the street

B. constant instructions received

C. sweetness of freedom

D. hushed, bare feet

4. The rhyme scheme 'aaa' in the above extract is followed in all other stanzas of the poem that are written in parenthesis, i.e., (). Why?

Read the reasons given below and choose the option that the most accurate reasoning:

i. It shows the simplicity of the child's thoughts.

ii. It reflects the harmony and rhythm of the child's inner world.

iii. It mirrors a child's expression.

iv. It highlights the poet's aesthetic sensibility.

A. (i) and (iv)

B. (i) and (ii)

C. (ii) and (iii)

D. (iii) and (iv)

5. Pick the option that lists the usage of the word 'pattern', as in the extract above.

- A. That is a lovely pattern for wallpaper.
- B. He decided to wear a patterned shirt to the party.
- C. Poetry is a form of pattern making.
- D. She patterned her hair after her favourite celebrity.

6. Which option completes the popular adage given below?

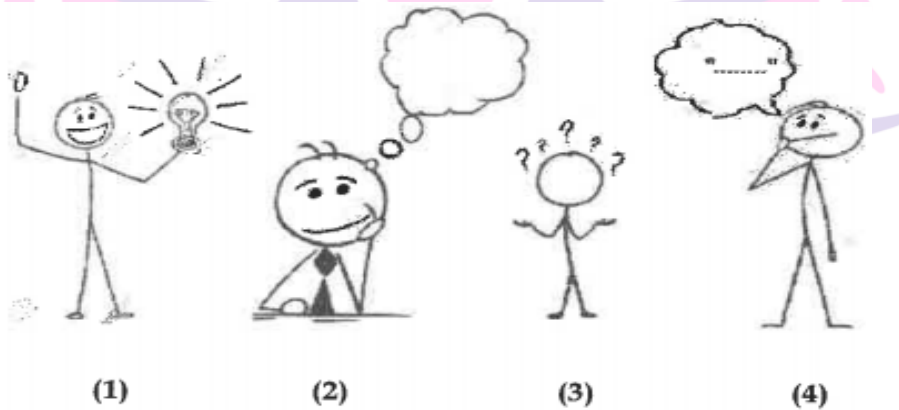
\_\_\_\_\_ Silence is gold.

- A. Precious are words for
- B. speech is silver
- C. Silver is the tongue
- D. Ideas may be precious but

7. A **transferred epithet** is a literary device where the modifier or epithet is transferred from the noun it is meant to describe to another noun in the sentence.

- A. soft dust
- B. hushed (bare) feet
- C. freedom (is) sweet
- D. silence (is) golden

8. Which image corresponds to what Amanda, is doing in this extract?



- A. Option 1
- B. Option 2
- C. Option 3
- D. Option 4

II. Don't bite your nails, Amanda!

Don't hunch your shoulders, Amanda!

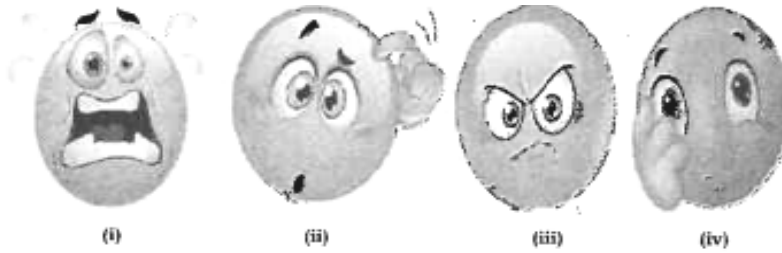
Stop that slouching and sit up straight,

Amanda!

1. The purpose of the speaker's words in the given extract is to:

- A. show the speaker's power over the listener.
- B. make the listener a better human being.
- C. advise the listener as an elder.
- D. improve the listener's posture and habits.

2. Pick the option that lists the image which correctly corresponds to the speaker's mood in the extract.



- A. Option 1  
 B. Option 2  
 C. Option 3  
 D. Option 4

3. Alliteration is a literary device used in the extract.

Which of the following options DOES NOT include example of the literary device?

- A. The moon and the shimmering stars watched over us.  
 B. With that charming chat, Catherine chose comfort.  
 C. Away ran pathetic pooch pouting like a princess.  
 D. Dee dee was driving down day after day.

4. What does the repetition of "Amanda!" at the end of each line reflect?

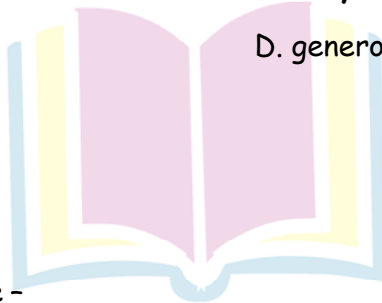
- A. It describes who the speaker is talking to.  
 B. It represents the absent-mindedness of the listener.  
 C. It shows the frustration of the speaker.  
 D. It helps create a rhyme scheme.

5. Select the option that fits with the following:

Slouching: straight:: \_\_\_\_\_ : \_\_\_\_\_

- A. transparent: translucent  
 B. lazy: agile  
 C. forgetful: lively  
 D. generous: liberal

III. There is a languid, emerald sea,  
 Where the sole inhabitant is me -  
 a mermaid, drifting blissfully.



1. Who do these lines refer to?

- A. Amanda  
 B. Mermaid  
 C. Amanda's sister  
 D. None of these

2. Why is this stanza given within brackets?

- A. To show inner thoughts of mother
- C. To show the contrast

- B. Day dreaming by Amanda
- C. Both (B) and (C)

3. Give the word from the stanza which means "free flowing act of going with motion and force".

- A. Languid
- C. Drifting

- B. Blissfully
- D. Emerald

4. Why does Amanda want to be sole inhabitant of sea?

- A. Away from noise
- B. Away from mother
- C. Away from this noisy and disturbing atmosphere
- D. Away from everyone

5. Which poetic device is used in line-1?

- A. Simile
- C. Alliteration

- B. Metaphor
- D. Personification

### Extract-based Question

1. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow:

(There is a languid, emerald sea,  
Where the sole inhabitant is me -  
a mermaid drifting blissfully.)

- a. Who does 'me' stand for?
- b. How does 'me' feel?
- c. Who is 'me' compared to?
- d. Which word in the extract means opposite of 'sorrowfully'?

- Ans.
- a. 'Me' stands for 'Amanda'.
  - b. 'Me' (Amanda) feels lonely.
  - c. 'Me' is compared to a mermaid.
  - d. The word is 'blissfully'.

## Short Answer Type Questions

1. Do you think that Amanda doesn't like to be controlled and instructed not to do one thing or the other? Give a reasoned answer.

**Ans.** Amanda loves her freedom. She doesn't want it to be curtailed. She wants to lead her own kind of life. If she is asked what to do and what not, she feels that her freedom is curtailed. She doesn't bother to answer her mother when she goes on instructing her what to do and what not.

2. List the things which Amanda's mother doesn't want her to do.

**Ans.** Her mother doesn't want her to hunch her shoulders and bend her body down. She stops her from eating chocolates as it would not be good for her pimpled face. She wants her to stop sulking as others would think that she is being nagged by her mother.

3. Why does Amanda want to be a mermaid?

**Ans.** Amanda is an escapist. She imagines herself to be a mermaid. She wants to live on an island where she is the only inhabitant. She loves freedom. She loves drifting blissfully like a mermaid on that lonely island.

4. Why does Amanda want to be Rapunzel?

**Ans.** Amanda is an escapist. She imagines herself as a fairy like Rapunzel. She wants to live happily in her lonely tower far from the maddening crowd of the world. Like Rapunzel, she wants to take care of her beautiful golden hair.

5. What could Amanda do if she were a mermaid?

**Ans.** Amanda is a little girl. She, in fact, is a symbol of every child who is instructed by the parents to do or not to do this or that. If she were a mermaid she would blissfully drift in the sea.

6. What does Amanda yearn for?

**Ans.** Amanda is a little girl. She is asked to do or not to do this and that. She is nagged at by her parents. So Amanda yearns for freedom. She wants to lead a life without any restrictions.

7. *Don't eat that chocolate, Amanda!*

*Remember your acne, Amanda!*

**Why is Amanda asked not to eat chocolate?**

**Ans.** Amanda already suffers from acne, a skin disease. If she eats chocolate it will aggravate her problem further. That is why she is asked not to eat chocolate.

8. **'The silence is golden, the freedom is sweet' Why does Amanda say so?**

**Ans.** Amanda says that 'the silence is golden, the freedom is sweet' because she wants to lead a life without any restrictions. She likes silence because she wants to roam freely and undisturbed in a calm green sea like a mermaid. Again, she likes freedom in life like an orphan to escape the nagging of her parents and have the liberty to roam freely on the streets.

9. **'The silence is golden, the freedom is sweet' Why does Amanda say so?**

**Ans.** Amanda says that 'the silence is golden, the freedom is sweet' because she wants to lead a life without any restrictions. She likes silence because she wants to roam freely and undisturbed in a calm green sea like a mermaid. Again, she likes freedom in life like an orphan to escape the nagging of her parents and have the liberty to roam freely on the streets.

### Long Answer Type Questions

1. **What picture do you form of Amanda's mother/parents after reading the poem 'Amanda'?**

**Ans.** Amanda's mother seems to be an overprotective mother. She believes that Amanda is still a little girl and must live her life as her mother wants. Being a girl, she needs constant tutoring and taking instructions from her. She should be very careful the way she sits and stands. She should not bend down but sit up straight. She forbids her eating chocolate as it would not be good for her pimples. Her constant nagging leads her daughter far away from her. Amanda escapes into the world of dreams imagining herself a mermaid, an orphan or a fairy. She doesn't look at her mother while she is speaking to her. Amanda's mother fails to understand why her daughter remains unhappy and moody. She only asks her to stop sulking lest people should blame her mother for nagging her. Amanda doesn't want to belong to the world of her mother and other adults. She finds comfort and solace in the world of fairies and fantasies.

## 2. Why does Amanda escape into the dreamy world of mermaids, fairies and orphans?

Does she any solace there?

**Ans.** Amanda is a teenager. Like all teenagers, she loves freedom. She wants to lead her own kind of life. She doesn't want to be an overprotected child. Nor does she want that her parents should control and guide her activities. What she should do and what not, is her own choice. She should not be dictated by her mother. Mother's constant nagging leads her away from her. She creates a world of her own. Her world is not the world of harsh realities but it is an imaginary world of fairies and mermaids. There she finds solace as she can wander in a lonely island blissfully like a mermaid. She can enjoy freedom by roaming around the streets like an orphan. She craves to live in a lonely tower leading a peaceful life like Rapunzel. She avoids her mother as she doesn't like her constant nagging. She even doesn't look at her while she is speaking to her.

### SELF ASSESSMENT

#### Short Answer Type Questions

1. What do you know about Amanda after reading the poem?
2. Who do you think is speaking to her? Isn't she her own mother?
3. Why doesn't Amanda answer the questions asked by her mother?
4. Why does Amanda want to be a mermaid?
5. Amanda wants to be an orphan. Why?
6. Why does Amanda want to be Rapunzel?
7. Is Amanda's mother a really nagging mother? Give examples.
8. Is Amanda really sulking and moody?

#### Long Answer Type Questions

1. Describe Amanda's mother's constant efforts of instructing and guiding her to do or not to do things. Do children like such a nagging mother? Does Amanda like her?
2. Amanda's effort to escape into her own world of imagination and dreams is mere escapism. Her mother's constant nagging drives her into such a world. Elaborate.