

A Photograph

Case Study Based Questions

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

Some twenty-thirty-years later She'd laugh at the snapshot. "See Betty And Dolly," she'd say, "and look how they Dressed us for the beach." The sea holiday Was her past, mine is her laughter. Both wry With the laboured ease of loss.

(A) What does the poet indicate with "Mine is her laughter"?

- (a) That the poet is missing her mother.
- (b) That the poet's mother is dead.
- (c) That the poet's mother had stopped laughing.
- (d) Both (a) and (b)

(B) Fill in the blanks with an appropriate answer.

The phrase 'laboured ease of loss' generates a feeling of.....

(C) In the given extract, what emotion was the poet's mother feeling about the photograph?

Ans. (A) (d) Both (a) and (b)

Explanation: Here, the poet indicate that she misses her mother's laughter as she cannot hear it anymore because she is dead. Hence, (d) is correct.

(B) Pain

Explanation: The given phrase generates a feeling of pain. The phrase 'laboured ease of loss' tells us about the acceptance of loss and living with it. The poet and her mother feel the pain, but they accept it and live with it. The poet's mother accepted her lost youth, and the poet accepted the loss of her mother.

(C) The poet's mother laughed while recalling a moment of her past captured in the photograph. She looks back at her childhood days with nostalgia and recalls her innocent joys. Looking at the picture years later brings back fond memories. She laughs at the way they were dressed up for the beach holiday.

2. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

Now she's been dead nearly as many years As that girl lived. And of this circumstance There is nothing to say at all. Its silence silences.

(A) Which poetic device has been used in 'Its silence silences'?



- (a) Personification
- (b) Simile
- (c) Transferred epithet
- (d) Oxymoron

(B) Fill in the blanks with an appropriate answer.

In the given extract, 'This circumstance' refer.....

(C) State whether the given statement is TRUE or FALSE.

The poet finally accepts the death of her mother and gets past the tragedy.

Ans. (A) (a) Personification

Explanation: The expression is an example of personification. The situation has been given the human quality which silences the poet. This expression from the poem 'A Photograph' by Shirley Toulson means that the reality of the poet's mother's death fill her with sadness. She can't do anything about it. Whenever she remembers her mother, she just becomes silent with the pain that followed after her mother's death. Hence, (a) is correct.

(B) the death of the poet's mother.

Explanation: Whenever she sees the photograph of her mother, she becomes sad, as the photograph brings nostalgic feelings. She gets lost in the sweet memories of the past. But she can't do anything about it now. She has nothing to say at all about it. She maintains silence, and this silence leads to a deeper pall. (cover) of silence.

(C) False

Explanation: The poet is consumed with grief but is left with no words to express her loss and pain. The poet is totally absorbed in the memories of her dead mother. The painful silence of this situation leaves the poet speechless. The poet can feel the grief but is unable to express it through words. The silence caused by death makes the atmosphere gloomy.

