

July Month Notes Of lesson  
Poem 4. The Return

John Burroughs.

I. Answer the following questions with reference to context.

1. He sought the old scenes with eager feet.  
The scenes he had known as a boy;  
'Oh, for a draught of those foundation  
sweet,  
And a taste of that vanished joy!'

a) Who is 'he' in the above stanza?

Ans:- 'He' refers to the poet.

b) What does he want to do at the fountain?

Ans:- He wants to taste the sweet water of the fountains and the vanished joy.

c) What had happened to the man's joy?

Ans:- The man's joy had vanished.

2. He roamed the fields, he wooed the streams,  
His schoolboy paths essayed to trace;  
The orchard ways recalled his dreams,  
The hills were like his mother's face.

a) What did he do when he went to the old scenes?

Ans: He roamed the fields, wooed the streams and tried to retrace his schoolboy paths.

b) How did the 'orchard ways' affect the man?

Ans: The orchard ways made him recall his dreams, indicating that the memories associated with that place made him nostalgic.

c) Which stage of the man's life does the above stanza refer to?

Ans: The stanza refers to the man's schooldays.

3. O sad, sad hills! O cold, cold hearth!

In sorrow he learned this truth -

One may return to the place of his birth,  
He cannot go back to his youth.

a) How are the hills and the hearth described?

Ans: The hills are described as sad, and the

hearth is described as cold.

b) What is the truth that the man has learnt?

Ans:- The man has learned that while one can return to the place of his/her birth, one cannot return to his/her youth.

c) Do you think the man was happy to know the truth? Why or why not?

Ans:- The man was not happy to know the truth. This is evident from the way the hills and the hearth have been described and from the line 'In sorrow he learned this truth'.

II Answer the following questions:

1. List the scenes of his boyhood that the poet visited?

Ans:- The poet visited the fields, the streams, the orchard ways and the hills.

2. What are the two things that the poet desires to taste?

Ans:- The poet desires to taste the sweet water of the fountains and the vanished joy.

3. What according to you does the phrase 'vanished joy' mean?

Ans:- The phrase 'vanished joy' suggests that

the joy and happiness associated with the poet's youth have disappeared and are no longer present.

4. What is the sad truth that the poet has learnt?

Ans:- The sad truth that the poet has learned is that one can go back to the place of their birth but one cannot go back to their youth.

Life 23/6/25