

BVP LKR

CLASS-10, SUBJECT-ENGLISH

DATE- 01/06/2021,Teacher--LP.SINGH

THE BALL POEM

----- JOHN BERRYMAN

Central Idea-----

‘The Ball Poem’, composed by John Berryman, is about losing something that you love and learning to grow up without it. It is about a little boy who for the first time in his young life, is learning what it is like to experience grief at the loss of a much beloved possession – his ball. To us, the loss of a ball is of minor consequence, and our reaction to it is to say. ‘O there are another balls’. But to a little boy, this is not so. A dime, another ball, is worthless. Money is external; it can not buy back our love, nor replace the things that we love; the things that really matter.

For this poem, the boy's ball personifies his young days and happy innocence. In this world, people will take balls just as they will take away our innocence and force us to grow up. And once we lose this innocence, we can never get it back. ‘ Balls will be lost always, little boy, and no one buys a ball back’. This poem shows how, all throughout your life, you will be forced to do things

that you don't want to do; and you will lose or have to give up the things that you love. But, despite this, you have to learn to stand up to be strong and get on with your life – no matter how much it hurts inside. Because that is the only way you will survive; you have to learn to accept and let go- and not cling onto something that you can never have.

The poet uses imagery when describing how the ball personifies the spirit of the boy's childish innocence. In the last stanza, we visualize how the spirit of this little boy, like the ball, is sinking into the dark water of the harbour. As it drifts further away, the boy learns to grow up, and that part of him that is linked to that ball grows up as well, until it is no longer a little boy.

Thus, the poet wants us to carry on even if we are deeply hurt and sad inside. We must not show our sadness as people consider it as a weakness. The poet also emphasizes that our innocence is also taken away forcefully from us making us more complex. We, then, lose our simple views of life but we also learn to leave our pain behind and emerge stronger again. We have to muster physical and emotional strength back and start fighting the daily war for survival. The central essence of the poem is the maturity that makes us accept what

**has been lost and accept that loss to be a part of
life too- by making us capable of moving forward
by leaving the past behind.**