BVP LKR

CLASS-11,SUBJECT-ENGLISH DATE-07-12-2021,TEACHER-L.P.SINGH Central Theme (Summary)

A Photograph

---- Shirley Toulson

'A Photograph', composed by Shirley Toulson, describes the beauteous moments of the past that later affect a lot creating nostalgic feelings. The poem starts with an old photograph which is seen by the poet. The photograph in the cardboard shows the poet's mother along with her two cousin sisters. All the three cousins stood at the beach on the holiday and her uncle captured the sweet smile of the poet's mother in the camera.

The poet remembers his mother's laugh when she looked at her old photograph after twenty or thirty years. The sea-holiday of her childhood was now a thing of the past for her. It is obvious that time flies on wings. Time forced the poet to realise a sense of loss. On the mother's part, she lost those happy moments of her childhood, and for the poet—the loss of her mother's sweet smile. Both struggled to bear the loss with tolerable ease.

The most pathetic circumstance refers to the death of the poet's mother. The photograph of the dead mother brings sad nostalgic feelings in the poet. He maintains silence. His silence leads to a deeper pall of silence and mystery.

Thus, it is true to say that "The waves washed their 'terribly transient feet'.