P.6 The Ball Poem

1.In ‘The Ball Poem’, The poet, John Berryman, tells about a little boy who has lost his ball.

2. The boy can buy many new balls but he has a very deep emotional attachment and memories associated with that ball.

3. So, he regrets over the loss of the ball.

4.The poet is indirectly trying to tell us that e should learn how to cope up with the loss.

5. Money is external which means that we can not buy memories with money.

6. We should learn our responsibility and learn to cope up with the loss.

Q1: Why does the poet say, “ I would not intrude on him”? Why doesn’t he offer him money to buy another ball?

A: The poet wants the boy to experience the loss. He should learn that it is the part of life. That’s why the poet doesn’t want to interfere the boy and doesn’t want to offer him money to buy another ball.

Q2. Do you think the boy has had the ball for a long time? Is it linked to the memories of days when he played with it?

A: Yes, it seems like the boy has had the ball for a long time. When it bounced into the water, all his memories of the days of childhood flashed in front of him. This led to a realisation that those moments would not come back, just like the ball. He can buy new balls and can similarly create new moments, but those that are gone would not return.

Q3. What does “ in the world of possessions” mean?

A: “In the world of possessions” means people like to possess all sorts of things in the world. Money is external because it can buy only material objects; it can not buy everything that one loses.

Q4. What does the poet say the boy is learning from the loss of the ball?

A: The poet says that the boy is learning to cope up with the loss of the ball. He is experiencing grief and learning to grow up in this world of possessions. He learns that there are so many things in life that are to be lost and can not be brought back. It is useless to feel sorrow for it.