

**GRADE -11 ENGLISH**

**POEM – A PHOTOGRAPH- SHIRLEY TOULSON**

**Give answers for the following questions:**

**Q1. “And of the circumstance thus nothing to say at all. Its silence silences’ says the poetess’s in “A Photograph. ‘What is she referring to?**

ANS:”The circumstance” refers to the situation that was captured in the photo years before when the poetess’s mother stood for a photograph.

**Q2. What had the camera captured?**

ANS: The camera had captured the natural smile and the sweet face of the poetess’s mother with her two cousins each one holding her hand.

**Q3.What has not changed over the years? Does that suggest something to you?**

ANS: The sea has not changed over the years. It suggests that nature and its objects do not undergo a change. They remain the same over the years. It also suggests that with the passing of time man dies, but nature remains unchanged.

**Q4. The poetess’s mother laughed at the snapshot . What did her laugh indicate?**

ANS: Poetess’s mother laughed at the snapshot of her when she was a child. The ‘laugh’ indicates her joy and youthfulness. It also indicated her innocent youthful spirit.

**Q5. Which incident has been captured in the snapshot?**

ANS The incident depicts three girls who had gone for a swim in the sea and were standing still for a short time smiling at the camera. The group photo captures their joy, buoyant spirit.

**Q6. Why do you think, does the poetess’s say nothing about her mother’s death?**

ANS: The poetess’s has no words to express her reaction to this solemn and painful incident. Death silences everyone. The extensive quietness and prevailing gloom silences her.

**Q7. What is the meaning of the line”Both wry with the labored ease of loss”.**

ANS:The sea holiday and the laughter of the poet’s mother are incidents of the past. There is a sense of loss associated with them. Both are amusing yet disappointing as the state of feeling comfortable or relaxed is unnatural or forced one. This sense of loss is quite painful to bear.

**Q7. What impression do you form of the poetess and the poetess’s mother after reading the poem ’ A Photograph’?**

The poem presents the poet as a sensitive person who is quite affectionate towards her mother and is deeply attached to her. She loves her ‘sweet’ face and sees the changes in it as she advances in age. She remembers all the incidents connected with her life including her laughter on looking at the photograph. She finds it hard to bear her death. The pangs of separation stun her to speechlessness.

The poetess’s mother appears as a physically well formed person with sweet face and beautiful smile. She has a friendly temperament and free mixing nature. She has great affection for her two girl cousins and goes with them for a sea-holiday where they put on quaint dresses. She poses with them smilingly for a snap. Her laughter on seeing the dresses in the snap shows her fine temperament and good humour.

**POETIC DEVICE:**

**Transferred Epithet: ‘**Terribly transient feet’

**Synecdoche: Terribly transient feet**

**Oxymoron :** Laboured ease of loss**.**

**Alliteration**: terribly transient feet , Silence silences

**Allusion:** The cardboard’s lack of durability hints at the lack of permanence of human

life.

**Personification:** Silence silences

**Paradox :**