**A PHOTOGRAPH**

**Read the stanza carefully and answer the questions that follow :**

**1. The cardboard shows me how it was**

**When the two girl cousins went paddling,**

**Each one holding one of my mother’s hands**

**And she the big girl—some twelve years or so.**

**Questions**

**(i) What does the word ‘cardboard’ denote in the poem? Why has this word been used?**

**(ii) Who were the three girls captured in the photograph?**

**(iii) Where had they gone for outing/paddling?**

**2. All three stood still to smile through their hair**

**At the uncle with the camera. A sweet face,**

**My mother’s, that was before I was born.**

**And the sea, which appears to have changed less,**

**Washed their terribly transient feet.**

**Questions**

**(i) What does ‘three’ refer to?**

**(ii) When and where was the photograph taken?**

**(iii) Bring out the comparison between the sea and the ‘feet’.**

**3. Some twenty-thirty—years later**

**She’d laugh at the snapshot. “See Betty**

**And Dolly,” she’d say, “and look how they**

**dressed us for the beach.”**

**Questions**

**(i) The poetess’ mother laughed at the snapshot. Why? What did her laugh indicate?**

**(ii) When was the snapshot taken?**

**(iii) Who had dressed the speaker? What was funny about the dress?**

**4. The sea holiday**

**Was her past, mine is her laughter. Both wry**

**With the laboured ease of loss.**

**(i) What is the significance of the ‘sea holiday’ here?**

**(ii) Explain: The sea holiday was her past, mine is her laughter.**

**(iii) Who does ‘both’ here refer to?**

**5. Now she’s been dead nearly as many years**

**as that girl lived. And of this circumstance**

**There is nothing to say at all.**

**Its silence silences.**

**Questions**

**(i) How many years ago had the poetess’s mother died?**

**(ii) What does ‘this circumstance’ refer to?**

**(iii) Explain Its silence silences.**