

**RAIN ON THE ROOF**

**Give short answers:**

1. **What does the poet like to do when it rains?**

The poet likes to press the pillow of a cottage-chamber bed and lie listening to the patter of the soft rain overhead when it rains.

1. **What is the single major memory that comes to the poet?**

The single major memory that comes to the poet is that of his mother, as she used to look upon her children ("darling dreamers") before leaving them to sleep until dawn.

1. **Who are the “darling dreamers” he refers to?**

The "darling dreamers" he refers to are himself and his siblings when they were children, being regarded by their mother.

1. **Is the poet now a child?**

No, the poet is not a child now, as he is recalling memories of his mother from "years agone" (years past), indicating he is an adult reflecting on his past.

1. **Is his mother still alive?**

The poem strongly suggests his mother is not still alive, as he says "Now in memory comes my mother" and feels her "fond look on me" as he listens, implying a remembrance rather than a current interaction.

**Give Long Answers:**

1. **Explain the meaning of "a thousand dreamy fancies into busy being start" and "a thousand recollections weave their air-threads into woof" as they relate to the poet's experience.**

When the poet listens to the rhythmic sound of the rain upon the roof, "a thousand dreamy fancies into busy being start" means that countless imaginative thoughts, daydreams, and new ideas begin to emerge vividly and actively in his mind, taking on a form beyond mere fleeting thoughts. This suggests a burst of creative and imaginative activity. Simultaneously, "a thousand recollections weave their air-threads into woof" signifies that numerous memories, which might have previously seemed intangible or disconnected ("air-threads"), begin to intertwine and form a coherent, textured pattern ("woof"), much like threads are woven into cloth. This implies that the rain helps him connect and integrate his past experiences, bringing them together into a meaningful tapestry of remembrance.

1. **How does the sound of the rain affect the poet, leading to a sense of "bliss" and a deep connection to his past?**

The sound of the rain, specifically the "patter of the soft rain overhead" and "every tinkle on the shingles," deeply affects the poet by bringing a profound sense of "bliss" and comfort, prompting him to lie in his bed and simply listen. This "melody of nature" serves as a powerful trigger for his inner world. As he listens, his mind becomes a fertile ground for both new "dreamy fancies" and a flood of "recollections". The most significant aspect of this effect is the vivid return of his mother in his memory. He recalls how she used to affectionately look upon him and his siblings, her "darling dreamers," before leaving them to sleep. The recurring sound of the rain ("this refrain") directly evokes this specific memory, making him feel her "fond look" on him once more. This intense emotional connection to his childhood, facilitated by the comforting and nostalgic sound of the rain, creates a deep sense of peace and emotional richness, bridging the past with his present experience of "bliss"