

Literature

Theme of the poem DUST OF SNOW

Theme of DUST OF SNOW:

1. Communication between nature and humans
- 2 . Nature healing and helping with negative human emotions

Summary of the poem

The short poem by Robert Frost throws light upon the unimaginable healing power of nature and tiny things. From a bad mood to ill-health, there is nothing that can't be cured by nature. The author was experiencing one such bad day when a crow's movement near a hemlock tree dusted snow upon him.

The poem is set in a scene where the poet is in a bad mood and is walking by a tree, a hemlock tree. Hemlock tree is a poisonous tree. As he passes by, a crow by chance shook the tree and some snow fall on him. Whether it falls on his head or shoulders is unknown as there is no specific mention in the poem. Whether the crow was landing, shivering with cold, re adjusting itself on the branch or taking off, it happened to send some particles of snow upon the author. Here, the two agents of nature, the hemlock tree and the crow are signifiers of sadness and gloom just like the poet's mood was in the opening scene.

For reasons unknown, the author was having a terrible day. But the falling of the snow on his head lifted his mood instantly. He had already spent his day in a bad mood but the rest of it was saved by the crow and the hemlock tree. Generally, hemlock tree and crow are used for negative references but the poet used them beautifully to portray that inauspicious things can bring joy and happiness too. One must not take things for granted and should be open and accept whichever way the nature chooses to bless.

Answer the following questions:-

1. Where did the dust of snow come from? How did it land on the speaker?
2. What has the speaker's heart been 'given'?
3. Did the speaker's mood change? Was he happy or sad?
4. Name the poet of 'Dust of snow'?

Grammar

There are five kinds of nouns:-

1. **Common noun**:- name given to a person, place animal or thing. Ex. Boy, tree, city, monkey etc
2. **Proper noun**:- special name given to a particular person, place, or thing. It always begins with a capital letter. Ex. Anup, Farida, Red Fort, Chennai etc
3. **Concrete noun**:- name for an object that we can see, touch or smell. Ex. Flower, table, house, aeroplane.
4. **Abstract noun**:- name for a thing which we cannot smell, touch or feel physically- a quality, action, state or idea. Ex. Kindness, laughter, childhood
5. **Collective noun**:- name of a group of people, things or animals that we think of as a whole. Ex. Herd, flock, family, crowd.

Q. Write whether the highlighted nouns are common nouns, proper nouns, abstract nouns or collective nouns.

1. They have plans to go to the **cinema**.
2. I am going to **London** next month
3. That **song** was familiar in the past.
4. We saw a **flock** of birds flying high.
5. **Honesty** is such a rare trait.
6. The dress is made out of **wool**.