

Sub - ENGLISH READERText Book - FIRST FLIGHT (POETRY)POEM - 1DUST OF SNOW (By Robert Frost)Central Idea of The Poem

The poem signifies the importance of small things that some times seem simple but have a larger significance in our times of depression or hopelessness.

Assignment

(a) Answer these questions:

1. What is a 'Dust of Snow'? What does the poet say has changed his mood? How has the poet's mood changed?

2. How does Frost present nature in this poem? The following questions may help you to think of an answer.

(i) What are the birds that are usually named in poems?

Do you think a crow is often mentioned in poems? What images come to your mind when you think of a crow?

(ii) Again, what is 'a hemlock tree'? why doesn't the poet write about a more 'beautiful' tree such as a maple, or an oak, or a pine?

(iii) What do the 'crow' and 'hemlock' represent joy or sorrow? what does the dust of snow that the crow shakes off a hemlock tree stand for?

8. Have there been times when you felt depressed or hopeless? Have you experienced a similar moment that changed your mood that day?

Comprehension

Read the stanza given below and answer the questions that follow:

The way a crow
looked down on me
The dust of snow
from a hemlock tree

Questions

(a) Name the poet.

(b) How has the dust of snow affected the poet?

(c) Pick out the phrase from the stanza that means the same as 'ice'.

(d) What is the rhyming scheme in the stanza?

Summary of the poem 'DUST OF SNOW'

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.

Poem

DUST OF SNOW

By Robert Frost

The way a crow
Shook down on me
The dust of snow
From a hemlock tree

Has given my heart
A change of mood
And saved some part
Of a day I had rued.