

CLASS NOTES

Class: VIII

Topic: SOMEBODY'S MOTHER

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Subject: ENGLISH

C. Answer these questions in 80-100 words each.

1. Why do you think the passers-by were so uncaring of the woman and paid no heed to the fact that she needed help?

Ans. The woman did not receive any help from the passers-by. They took no notice of her eyes which were full of anxiety and desperation. These people were not callous or heartless. They did not willingly ignore the old woman who was mutely asking for their assistance. They ignored her because they were too engrossed in their own work and themselves to extend her a helping hand. They focused on themselves and their own work and had neither the time nor the inclination to pay any attention to this lady who was on the lookout for someone to help her cross the street.

2. Describe in detail how the boy helped the woman. What prompted him to do so?

Ans. The boy went to her and whispered that he would help her to cross if she wished to do so. The old lady placed her hand on his strong arm and he helped her to cross with his own form and strong feet. Then he went back to his friends, happy with his deed.

The boy was happy that he had helped somebody's mother to cross the street safely and was content that he had done a kind deed to guide her with his strength. He told his friends that the lady was somebody's mother though she was aged and poor and slow. He hoped that someday, if his mother should be in the same state and he would be far away, some person would lend her a helping hand.

3. Do you think that the title of the poem is apt? Give reasons.

Ans. I think the title of the poem is very appropriate. Neither the boy nor the old woman know each other. To the woman, the cheerful lad was just someone's boy, and to him, she was somebody's mother. He helped her because he hoped somebody would extend a helping hand to his mother if ever she needed it and he himself was far away. The woman prays for the boy and calls upon the Almighty to bless the boy who is somebody's son. Two complete strangers, yet bound by an act of kindness that expects no return.

D. Read these lines and answer the questions that follow.

1. He guided the trembling feet along,
Proud that his own were firm and strong

Then back again to his friends he went,
His young heart happy and well content.

a. Who is the 'he' referred to here?

Ans. In these lines, 'he' is referred for the young boy.

b. Why do you think he was proud that 'his own were firm and strong'?

Ans. The young boy was proud that 'his own were firm and strong' because he was able to help the old woman.

c. What did 'he' tell his friends after he went back to them?

Ans. The boy told his friends that he helped the old lady thinking that someday someone will help her old mother in a similar situation when he might be far away from her.

d. Identify the figure of speech of the given lines.

Ans. His young heart happy and well content.

2. Somebody's mother bowed low her head
In her home that night, and the prayer she said
Was, 'God be kind to the noble boy,
Who is somebody's son, and pride and joy!

a. Who is 'somebody's mother'?

Ans. In the poem, 'somebody's mother' is the old woman who waited at the crossing as she was unable to cross the street.

b. Why did 'somebody's mother' pray for the boy?

Ans. "Somebody's mother" prayed for the boy because he had helped her in crossing the street.

c. Why do you think the boy is called 'somebody's son, pride and joy'?

Ans. The boy who helped the old lady cross the road was different from the other boys. He was of the most cheerful one yet he was so kind that he drifted away from his group and found time to help a strange, aged woman to cross the street. The great quality of seeing his own mother in an old lady, the quality to suffer the jeering of his friends, places him on top of all the other boys. As for the boy being so virtuous, the old lady thought that he might be the pride and joy of his parents.

CONTENT PREPARED AT HOME.

