

Chapter Review

- 'Dust of Snow' is a short poem by the American poet Robert Frost. It has only two stanzas of four lines each, but a deep message.
- The poet is sitting sad and gloomy under a hemlock tree. A crow sitting on the tree shakes down some dust of snow on him.
- This small, unexpected act changes his mood. His sadness goes away and he feels fresh and cheerful.
- He says that the incident saved a part of the day he had rued (regretted). So the day, which was going badly, turned good.
- Central idea: nature has the power to heal. A tiny, ordinary happening can lift our spirits and change our whole outlook.
- Frost uses a crow and a hemlock, which are usually signs of sorrow and death, but they bring joy. This is the surprise of the poem.

Key Terms

Dust of snow – Tiny, fine particles of snow.

Hemlock – A poisonous evergreen tree, a symbol of sorrow.

Crow – A black bird with a harsh voice, seen as a bad omen.

Rued – Felt regret or sorrow about something.

Mood – The state of one's feelings at a time.

Shook down – Made something fall by shaking.

Change of mood – From sadness to happiness.

Symbol – A thing that stands for an idea.

Diagrams / Flowcharts

Mood Journey of the Poet

Sad and regretful under hemlock



Crow shakes dust of snow on him



Surprise and a smile



Mood changes to cheerful



Part of the day is saved

Symbols in the Poem

Gloom

- Crow: black, harsh, bad omen
- Hemlock: poisonous, dark
- Poet: sad, regretful

Joy

- Dust of snow: fresh, light
- Sudden change of mood
- Day is saved

About the Poet

- Robert Frost (1874-1963) was an American poet, famous for poems about rural life and nature. He won the Pulitzer Prize four times.

Poetic Devices

- Rhyme scheme: abab cdcd. In stanza 1, crow rhymes with snow and me rhymes with tree. In stanza 2, heart rhymes with part and mood rhymes with rued.
- Imagery: visual images of the crow, hemlock tree and falling snow.

- Symbolism: crow and hemlock stand for sorrow; dust of snow stands for joy and renewal.
- Alliteration and simple words: the language is plain, which makes the message strong.
- Irony: things that should make us sad bring happiness.

Theme / Message

- Small things in nature can change our mood. Do not let one bad moment spoil the whole day.
- Stay open to simple joys: a smile, a pet, a walk, a bird. They heal sadness.

Textbook Exercise Questions

Q.1 What is a 'dust of snow'? What has changed the poet's mood? How has it changed?

Ans. The 'dust of snow' means tiny particles of snow. The sudden fall of snow shaken by the crow changed the poet's mood. He was sad and gloomy at first. The moment refreshed him and made him cheerful and energetic for the rest of the day.

Q.2 How does Frost present nature in this poem?

Ans. Frost presents nature in an unusual way. Poets usually choose beautiful birds like peacock, parrot or cuckoo and trees like maple, oak or pine. Frost chooses a crow, a black bird with a harsh voice, and a hemlock, a poisonous tree. Together they stand for sorrow and gloom. The dust of snow stands for natural joy and fresh energy, which replace the poet's sadness with optimism.

Q.3 Have there been times when you felt depressed or hopeless? Have you experienced a similar moment that changed your mood?

Ans. Yes. Once I returned from school tired and upset. As soon as I reached home, my puppy jumped on me and cuddled me. This small act of love lifted my mood and I felt happy for the rest of the day.

Board Exam Questions (Important)

Q.1 Reference to context: 'The way a crow / Shook down on me / The dust of snow / From a hemlock tree.' (a) Who is the poet? (b) What did the crow do? (c) What effect did it have?

Ans. (a) Robert Frost. (b) The crow shook the dust of snow from the hemlock tree on the poet. (c) It changed his sad mood to a happy one and saved the rest of his day.

Q.2 Why does the poet use a crow and a hemlock tree instead of other birds and trees?

Ans. To show how unexpected joy can come from things normally linked with sorrow. The crow and the hemlock are gloomy symbols, so their gift of cheer is a pleasant surprise.

Q.3 What does the phrase 'a part of the day I had rued' mean?

Ans. The poet had regretted the day, as it was going badly. After the snow fell, his mood improved and the rest of the day was saved from regret.

Q.4 What is the message of the poem 'Dust of Snow'? (Value-based, 3-4 lines)

Ans. Nature can heal our sadness. We should not let sorrow control us. Small and simple things, such as a bird or snow, can bring happiness if we remain open and positive.

Q.5 MCQ: The poet's mood changed because of (a) a crow (b) dust of snow shaken by a crow (c) a hemlock (d) a friend.

Ans. Answer: (b) the dust of snow shaken by a crow.

