



ENGLISH

MY MOTHER AT SIXTY SIX

Name: _____

Date: _____

Class: XII Sec: ____

Read the extract and answer the questions that follow:

..... and felt that
Old familiar ache, my childhood's fear
but all I said was, see you soon, Amma,
all I did was smile and smile and smile...

1. What do the parting words of the poetess suggest?
2. Why did she 'smile and smile'?
3. Why did the poetess suppress her pain in the presence of her mother at the airport?

Short answer type questions: (30-40 words)

1. How does Kamala Das try to put away the thoughts of her ageing mother?
2. What do the parting words of Kamala Das and her smile signify? 3) How did Charley realise that he was on the third level?
3. Why are the young trees described as 'sprinting'?
4. Why has the poet's mother been compared to the "late winter's moon"?

Literary Devices

1. **Assonance:** Here we see the use of vowel sound that is 'o'. (To Cochin last Friday morning)
Use of vowel sound 'o', 'a', 'e' (doze, open-mouthed, her face ashen like that of a corpse)
2. **Consonance:** use of the sound 's' and 't'
3. **Imagery:** when the poet say trees sprinting, merry children spilling
4. **Repetition:** Repeated use of 'looked', use of 'smile'
5. **Rhyme scheme** – The poem does not follow any rhyme or rhythm. It has been written in free verse.
6. **Simile:** The colour of the mother's face has been compared to that of a corpse – ashen. use of 'like' (her face ashen like that of a corpse)
Mother's face is compared to the late winter's moon – both are dull and lifeless. use of 'as' (as a late winter's moon).
