

CBSE CLASS XI WORKSHEET

Poem: "A Photograph" by Shirley Toulson

English Core (Hornbill) - Class 11

Time Allowed: 45 Mins

Max Marks: 25

EXTRACT-BASED SOURCE MATERIAL

*The cardboard shows me how it was
When the two girl cousins went paddling,
Each one holding one of my mother's hands,
And she the big girl — some twelve years or so.
All three stood still to smile through their hair
At the uncle with the camera. A sweet face,
My mother's, that was before I was born.
And the sea, which appears to have changed less,
Washed their terribly transient feet.*

SECTION A: EXTRACT-BASED QUESTIONS (OBJECTIVE & VSA) — [8 MARKS]

Q1. What does the word 'cardboard' refer to in the poem, and why has the poet used this word?

(1 Mark)

Q2. Who is the 'big girl' mentioned in the lines, and how old was she at that time?

(1 Mark)

Q3. Identify the poetic device used in the phrase 'terribly transient feet'.

(1 Mark)

- (a) Simile
- (b) Oxymoron
- (c) Alliteration and Transferred Epithet
- (d) Personification

Q4. Explain the contrast established by the poet between the 'sea' and the 'feet'.

(2 Marks)

Q5. Read the statements below and choose the correct option:

(1 Mark)

Assertion (A): The cousins were smiling through their hair.

Reason (R): The wind on the beach was blowing their hair across their faces as they posed for the photograph.

- (a) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
- (b) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
- (c) A is true but R is false.
- (d) A is false but R is true.

Q6. Fill in the blanks with appropriate words based on your reading of the poem:

(2 Marks)

The photograph captures a joyous _____ holiday where the mother's cousins, named _____ and Dolly, went wading into the water.

SECTION B: SHORT ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS (30–40 WORDS) — [9 MARKS]

Q7. What did the mother's laugh indicate when she looked at the snapshot twenty to thirty years later?

(3 Marks)

Q8. Explain the meaning of the line: 'Both wry with the laboured ease of loss.' Why is the phrase 'laboured ease' described as an oxymoron?

(3 Marks)

Q9. What does the phrase 'its silence silences' mean? What is the 'circumstance' being spoken of?

(3 Marks)

SECTION C: LONG ANSWER TYPE QUESTION (100–120 WORDS) — [8 MARKS]

Q10. The three stanzas of the poem depict three distinct phases of time and human life. Detail these three phases and discuss how the poem explores the universal themes of change, mortality, and silent grief.

(8 Marks)