

## English Text Book- Hornbill, Class 11

### Ch-2- A PHOTOGRAPH, by Shirley Toulson

#### A Photograph by Shirley Toulson

Title: The poem, "A Photograph" is composed in blank verse. Its title is very much appropriate as it reminds the poet of her mother. A photograph is something that captures a certain moment of someone's life. The person might change in course of time but the memories attached with the photograph are eternal. In this poem, the poet's mother is no more but the photograph makes her memories come alive. The mother's sweet face or her cousins heavily dressed up for the beach have all changed with time but the moment captured in the photograph still gives happiness to the poet's mother when she views it thirty to forty years later. The poet reminisces that the sea holiday was the past of her mother and for her the laughter of her mother is past now. Both the moments of life have been permanently etched in the poet's mind with a feeling of eternal loss.

Death now has overpowered the innocence of these moments and the pleasure they treasured. The poet concludes the poem on a melancholy note with the comment that there is nothing to say or comment upon this sad event. The silences seems to silence all the other thoughts.

dfork dk "kh'kzd] ^, QkV/kxkQ\*, d vrpoktr dko; gA bl dk 'kh'kzd cgr mi ; eä gSD; käd ; g ds dfo dks ml dh eka dh ; kn fnykrk gA , d rLohj dN , d k gS tksfdl h ds thou dk , d fuf'pr {k.k dSpj djrk gA l e; ds l kFk&2 0; fä cny l drk gSyfdu rLohj l s tVh ; kna vuttr gA bl dfork eä dfo dh eka ej xbz gS yfdu rLohj ml dh ; kna dks tfor djrh gA ek dk l ; kjk pgjk ; k ml dsppjh cfgula dh l kxj rV dsfy, r\$ kjh ] ; s l Hkh ckra l e; ds l kFk cny xbz gS yfdu rLohj ea dSpj gq si y vHkh Hkh dfo dh eka dks [kqkh nrs gS tc og rhl & pkyhl l ky ckn ml snfkrh gAdfo; =h ; kn djrh gSfd l eä dh Nqh ml dh eka dk vrhr Fkh vk\$ ml dsfy, ml dh eka dh gä h vc vrhr gS pph gA thou ds nkuka {k.k vur uq l ku dh Hkkouk ds l kFk LFk; h : i l s dfo ds fnex ea vidr gSA

ek\$ usvc ml vkulln o {k.k dh cxukgrk dk setar dj fy; k gS tks ml gkus l apr dh gA dfo , d mnkl hu Hko l fgr bl dfork dks bl fVli .kh ds l kFk l ekr djrk gSfd bl nqkn ?kVuk ij dgus ; k fVli .kh djus dsfy, dN Hkh ugha gA pñi h l Hkh vU; fopkjka dh pñi h yxrh gA

#### **UNDERSTANDING THE LESSON THROUGH KEY SENTENCES:**

1. The poet looks at the cardboard on which there is a childhood photograph of her mother.
2. She had gone for a sea holiday with two her cousins Betty and Dolly
3. While they were paddling, their uncle took a photograph of them.
4. Both the cousins were holding the hands of her mother who was the eldest among the girls.
5. This was before the poet was born
6. Time fled past since and all those who are in the photograph under went changes while the sea remained the same.
7. Her mother would look at the photograph after about twenty to thirty years and laugh nostalgically.

8. Now for the poet her mother's laughter and her sea holiday is a thing of the past.
9. Her mother died about 12 years ago.
10. The silence of the photograph silences the poet.
11. She experiences great loss.

**ef; oK; kadsek; e l si <uk l e > uk**

- 1- dfo ml dkmZckMZ dks n[krh gS ftl ij ml dh eka dh cpiu dh rLohj yxh gA
- 2- og vi uhs nks ppjh cfguka cV/h vksj M,yh ds l kfk l kxjrV ij N[eh eukus ds fy, xbz FkhA
- 3- tc os iMfyx dj jgs Fk[rc muds p[ok us mudh rLohj [kxph FkhA
- 4- nksuka ppjh cfgua dfo dh eka ds gkfk dks idMs Fkha tks yMfd; ka ea l cl s cMh FkhA
- 5- ; g dfo ds tle l sigys g[ok Fkk A
- 6- l e; 0; rhr gks x; k vksj l Hkh ykx tks rLohj ea Fk[ muds thou ea ifjorU gq tcf d l e[ ; Fkkor cuk jgkA
- 7- ml dh eka yxHkx 20 l srhl l ky ckn rLohj n[krh gS vksj mnkl hu Hkko l sgil rh gA
- 8- vc dfo ds fy, mudh eka dh g[ h vksj muds l e[ dh N[eh vrhr dh ckr cu p[ph gA
- 9- mudh eka dh eR; q 12 l ky igys g[ok FkhA
- 10- rLohj dh p[oh us dfo dks p[ dj fn; kA
- 11- ml ga egku upl ku dh vu[kkr gkrh gA

### EXPLANATION

#### **Lines 1 – 4:**

*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.*

In these lines, the poet describes looking through a photo album, the pages of which seem to be made of cardboard. She is looking at one picture in particular. It is a picture of three girls, the tallest and oldest one in the middle and two younger and shorter ones at each side of her. The girl in the middle is the poet's mother, and the poet speculates that her mother must have been around twelve years old when the picture was taken. The other two girls are two of her mother's cousins. Each of the cousins is holding on to one of the older girl's hands for support. The picture has been taken on a day that the three girls had gone paddling at the beach.

bu i f[ä; ka e[ dfo; =h , d Qk/ks , yce dh vksj n[krh gA og Qk/ks , Yce dkmZckMZ dk cuk g[ok gA og ml Qk/ks , Yce ea , d Qk/ks dh rjQ n[krh gA bl Qk/ks ea rhu yMfd; k; gA l cl s yEch , oa cMh yMeh chp ea [kMh g[ok gS vksj vxy cxy Nk/h yMfd; kll gA dfo; =h ds vuq kj chp okyh yMeh ml dh ek dh Qk/ks gS vksj dfo; =h vu[oku yxkrh gS fd tc ; g Qk/ks fy; k x; k Fkk ml oä mudh ek dh mez 12 l ky ds yxHkx gkchA vl; nks Nk/h yMfd; k ekldh ppjh cguag[ tks ml ds vxy cxy l gkjs ds fy; s ml dk gkfk idM+ ds [kMh g[ok gA vksj ; g Qk/ks ml fnu fy; k x; k Fkk tc os rhuka yMfd; kll e[ rV ij ?k[us xbz FkhA

#### **Lines 5 – 9:**

*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.*

In these lines, the poet further describes the conditions in which the photograph of her mother and her mother's cousins was taken. The poet says that her mother's

uncle had been the one to take the photograph. He had asked the three girls to pose for him, and so they had. They had left their wet hair open, and their hair was obscuring part of their faces. Through the film of hair covering their mouths, one could see that they were smiling into the camera. However, one face in the picture draws the poet's attention to a greater degree than the other two faces. It is her mother's face that she is concentrating on, and she comments that the face was a sweet one. The poet also says that the photograph was taken long before her own birth. Since then, her mother's face had of course changed since the time the photograph had been taken. In contrast to this, the sea which lay along the beach where the photograph was taken had changed to a lesser degree. That very sea had been washing the feet of the poet's mother and her two younger cousins the day the photograph had been taken. The poet calls those feet "terribly transient" since all the girls in that photograph had stopped being so young and had grown up since then. Their childhood hasn't lasted very long.

bu i fiä; ka ea dfo; =h ml l e; ds ckjs ea vls Hkh foLrkj l s crkrh gS tc mudh ek; vls ml dh cguks dk Qks/ks fy; k x; k FkkA dfo; =h ds vuq kj ; s Qks/ks mudh ek; ds pkpk us fy; k FkkA mlgkaus rhuls yMfd; ka dks i kst nus dgk glsck vls yMfd; ka us os k gh fd; k glsckA rhuls yMfd; ka us vi us HkxS tYQks dks [kyk j [kk Fkk ftl l s muds pgjs ds dñ Hkx <d tk jgs FkA ; /kfi ckyk l s mudk pgjk <d tk jgk Fkk yfdu bl ds ckn ea mudk ek; dj kuk l kQ utj vk jgk FkkA muds glkrs gq pgj ka ea l s , d pgjs us dfo; =h ds /; ku dks [khpok FkkA oks mudh ek; dk pgjk Fkk tks dfo; =h ds fgl kc l s cgr l; kjh FkA muds fgl kc l s ; s Qks/ks muds tle ds cgr igys yh xbz Fkh vls bl h dkj .ko'k vc mudh ek; cgr ifjofr gk pph gSftl dh Nfo bl Qks/ks l s ugha feyrh gA yfdu bl dsfoijhr l eæ tgka; s Qks/ks fy; k x; k Fkk oks vkt Hkh os k gh gSml es vi \$kk—r de cnyko vk; k gA ftl l e; ; g Qks/ks fy; k x; k Fkk ml l e; l eæ dh ygjs ckj & ckj dfo; =h dh ek; vls mudh cguks ds i jks dks /ks jgh FkA dfo us mu i jks dks vLFkkbz crk; k gS D; kfd oks T; knk fnu rd os s ugha jgs vls l Hkh yMfd; k cMh gkschA vls bl rjg mudk cpiu T; knk fnu rd ugha py ik; ka

**Lines 10 – 13:**

*Some twenty- thirty- years later  
 She'd laugh at the snapshot. "See Betty  
 And Dolly," she'd say, "and look how they  
 Dressed us for the beach." The sea holiday*

In these lines, the poet stops looking at the photograph and recalls what her mother used to say about the photograph. The poet isn't sure whether it was twenty years after the photograph was taken, or thirty years after it, but she remembers her mother telling her to look at how the cousins, called Betty and Dolly, looked at that young age. The poet's mother also asked her to look at how their parents had dressed them up for a visit to the beach. Perhaps the plan to take the photograph had been there all along.

bu i fiä; ka e) dfo; =h Qks/ks tQ dks ns[kuk cin dj nrh gS vls ; g ; kn djrh gSfd ml dh eka us rLohj ds ckjs ea D; k dgk FkA dfo; =h ; g l fuf' pr ugha dj ik jgh gS dh ; g rLohj fdruh ijkuh gS 20 l ky ; k fQj 30 l kyA yfdu mlga viuh ek; dh dgk gbz ckr fd mudh cgus ct/vh vls Mkh/h cpiu ea ds s fn [krh Fkh]; g ; kn gA dfo=h dh ek; us mlga ; s Hkh crk; k Fkk dh ds s muds ekrk firrk us mlga ml fnu l xj rV ?kpkus ds fy, r\$ kj fd; k Fkk A mlga yxrk gS dh muds ekrk firrk us igys gh muds Qks/ks yus dk fu.kz dj fy; k glsckA bl fy, mlga bl rjg r\$ kj dj k; k x; k FkkA

**Lines 14 – 15:**

*was her past, mine is her laughter. Both wry  
 With the laboured ease of loss.*

In these lines, the poet says that her mother used to consider the photograph as an inroad to the past that she had left behind. On the other hand, the poet herself considered the memory of her mother laughing as a relic of the past that she missed every day. In both cases, the memories of the past made the two women

contemplating them feel disappointed as they tried hard to come to terms with what they had lost.

dfo; =h crkrh gā dh muds ek; bu rLohjka dks vrhr dh ; knks dks fQj l s thus dk , d tfj; k l e>rh Fkh tks dh i hNs NW pndk FkA ml jh vls dfo; =h vi us ek; ds ckjs ea l kprh gā fd dš s oks gllkrh Fkh vls gj , d l e; oks mudks ; kn djrh gā nksuka ekeyka ea nksuka efgyk, a , d rLohj dks n[ k dj fujk"kk ea vi us chra gq s dy dks ; kn djrh gā tks mudks vls oki l ughafey l drkA

**Lines 16 – 19:**

*Now she has been dead nearly as many years  
As that girl lived. And of this circumstance  
There is nothing to say at all,  
Its silence silences.*

In these lines, the poet says that her mother has been dead for the past twelve years, that is, the same number of years that was the age of her mother in the photograph she had been looking at. The poet is able to think of her mother’s death, but she has no words with which to explain how that death has affected her. The fact that the death has silenced her mother has also left her speechless.

bu i fdr; ka ea dfo; =h dgrh gā fd mudh ek; dks ejs gq s 12 l ky gks x, gā vls oks , dne ogh mez gā tks ml QkVks ea mudh ek; dh FkA og vi us ek; dh eR; q ds ckjs ea l kp rks i k jgh gš yfdu oks ; s ugha crk l drh fd dš s ml dhs ek; dh eR; q us muds thou dks çHkkfor fd; kA l p rks ; g gš dh ft l eR; q ds dkj .k ges kk ds fy, ml dh ek; pi j gks xbz Fkh ml h dkj .k o'k dfo; =h ds i k l Hkh cksyus ds fy, dkbz 'kCn ugha jgs A

QUESTION AND ANSWER

**1. Comment on the tone of the poem.**

The tone of the poem is that of sadness. Shirley Toulson looks at an old photograph of her mother and is reminded of her mother who is no more. She recalls the moment when her mother was twelve years old and looked sweet and happy.

1- dfork ds Hkko@Loj ij fVli .kh djA

dfork ea n[ k dk Hkko@Loj gSA'kyhZ V, Yl u viuh eka dh , d ij kuh rLohj n[ krh gā vls viuh eka dks ; kn djrh gš tks vc thfor ugha gā og mu {k. kka dks ; kn djrh gā tc ml dh eka ckjg l ky dh Fkh vls e/ kj vls [kqk fn [krh FkA

**2. What is the significance of the ‘cardboard frame?’**

The cardboard frame or the photograph shows the lack of permanence of human life.

2- dkMZ:kmZ Yē dk D; k egRo gā

dkMZ:kmZ Qē ; k rLohj ea ekuo thou dh LFkF; Ro dh deh dk irk pyr k gā

**3. What emotions does the poet’s mother have when she looks at the photograph?**

The mother feels nostalgic looking at her bygone years. She laughs out loud and tells her daughter how her cousins had dressed up for the beach. She recalls those days when she was innocent and playful.

3- tc dfo; =h dh ekWQkVksxtQ n[ krh gš rks mudh D; k Hkkouk, aD; k gkrh gā

eka vi us chrs o"kkā ij mnkl hu fn [k jgh gā og tjs l s gā rsgq viuh cš/h l sdgrh gā fd dš s ml dh ppjh cgua rj kd h dh i k'kkd ea l eē rV ds fy, rš kj gks xbz FkA og mu fnuka ; kn djrh gā tc og funk@vckk vls ppy FkA

#### 4. What is silence and how has it silenced the poet?

The death of the poet's mother has silenced the poet. The poet is left without words, she has nothing to say.

4- pñi h D; k gš vñš ml us dfo dks dš spj fd; k gš

dfo dh eka dh eR; qus dfo; =h dks pj dj fn; k gš dfo; =h "kñn foghu gš ml ds ikl dgus ds fy, dñ ugha gš

#### 5. 'Each photograph is a memory.' Justify the statement in the light of the poem.

Photographs are memories that are captured and kept for lifetime purposes. Shirley Toulson's "A Photograph" captures one such moment when her mother was young and she went on a beach holiday with her cousins. Gone are these days of the mother and her cousins but the photograph manages to bring back those memories even after thirty years later. The laughter of the mother while seeing the photograph has become a past incident. But the photograph allows the poet to recall and revive the laughter through the image captured thirty years back. Therefore, photographs are indeed memories.

5- ^çR; d rLohj , d Lefr \*gš dfork ds vkykd eaLi 'V djš

rLohja; kna gš ftlga [kñp dñ vñš thoudky ds ç; kstuka ds fy, j [kñ x; k gš 'kyñz V, YI u dk \*, Qñk/kskñQ^ , d s {k.k dks dšpj djrk gš tc ml dh eka toku Fkñ vñš og vius ppñh cfguka ds l kFk l eš rV ij Nñh eukus xbz FkñA eka vñš ml dh ppñh cfguka ds fnuka vrñr gñs x, gš yfdu rLohj rñl l ky cñn Hkñ mu ; knka dks oki l ykus ea l Qy jgh gš tc dfo; =h rLohj nçkrh gš rks mlga yxrk gš fd eka dh gñ h fi Nyh ?kVuk cu xbz gš yfdu rLohj rñl l ky igys dh Nfo ds ek/; e l s dfo; =h dks ; kn djus vñš gñ h dks i qñthor djus ds fy, vušfr nrñh gš bl fy, j rLohja okLro ea ; kna gš

#### 6. What does the word 'cardboard' denote in the poem? Why has this word been used?

The cardboard is a part of a photo frame that keeps the photograph intact. It is made of very stiff and hard paper. The poet has ironically used it in her poem, "The Photograph." This cardboard helps in keeping the photograph of the 12 year old girl safely intact who herself was of transient nature.

6- dfork ea \*dkMçkMç 'kñn dk D; k vFkz gš bl 'kñn dk mi ; ksç D; ka fd; k x; k gš

dkMçkMç , d Qñk/ks Yè dk , d fgll k gš tks rLohj dks ç djkj j [krk gš ; g çgnr dBñš vñš dfBu dñxt l s cuk gš dfo us fop= : i l sbl sviuh dfork \*, Qñk/kskñQ^ ea ç; ksç fd; k gš ; g dkMçkMç 12 o"ñz dh yMelh dh rLohj dks l çf{kr : i l s ç djkj j [kusea enn djrk gš tks [kñ gh {k.kñkç ç—fr dh FkñA

#### 7. What has the camera captured?

The camera had captured the three girls, the pretty face of the poet's mother who was a girl of twelve at that time. It has also captured the smiling faces of the two girl cousins Betty and Dolly. They are holding the hands of the poet's mother.

7- dñš us D; k dšpj fd; k gš

dñš us rñu yMñd; ka dh Qñk/ks dšpj dh Fkñ dfo dh eka dk l ñj pñjk tks ml l e; çkjg dh yMelh FkñA bl us nks ppñh çguka çñh vñš M,yh ds eñ dñj krs pñjk ka dks dšpj fd; k gš os dfo; =h dh eka ds gñ FkñA dks i dMç-gñpž gš

#### 8. What has not changed over the years? Does this suggest something to you?

Only the sea has not changed over the years. The pretty faces and the feet of the three girls have changed over time. They are transient because time spares none.

8- o"ñk ea D; k ugha cnyk gš D; k ; g vki dks dñ l çko nrñk gš

doy o"ñk ea l eš ea cnyko ugha çñk gš l e; ds l kFk l ñj pñjs vñš rñu yMñd; ka ds i ç cny x, gš os {kñ.kd gš D; kñd l e; fd l h dks Hkñ {kñk ugha djrk gš

**9. The poet’s mother laughed at the snapshot. What did this laugh indicate?**

The poet’s mother laughed at the photograph which was taken years ago. In the photograph, she as well as her two little cousins stood holding each other’s hand. She laughed at all of them because they were heavily dressed up for the beach. Perhaps they looked funny to her. Their laughter indicated the youthful spirit.

9- dfo dh eka LuS 'k, V ij gjl hA bl gjl us l s D; k l a dr feyrk gS

dfo dh eka ml rLohj ij gjl h tks l kyka igys [khp xbz FkA rLohj ej og vSj ml dh nks NKVts ppjh cfgua, d&njl js ds gkFk i dMs-gq FkA og mu l Hkh ij gjl h D; k d os cgr l e rV ds fy, rS kj FkA 'kk; n os ml ds fy, v thc yx jgs FkA mudh gal h ea; pk vkRek dk in"ku FkA

**10. What is the meaning of the line “Both wry with the laboured ease of loss”**

Both the mother and the poet suffered a great sense of loss. The mother lost her childhood innocence and youthful spirit that the photograph had captured some years ago. On the other hand, the poet has lost the smile of her mother, which has become a thing of the past. Later, she loses her mother too.

10- vLokHk fod gkfu u gkuk bl 0; k; kRed euljat d i dR dk vFkz D; k gS

nks ka ekrk vSj dfo dks upl ku ds Hko dk , gl kl gA ek us viuh cpiu dh l jyrk vSj ; pk Hkkouk [kks nh tks rLohj ea dN l ky igys ds pj gPz FkA nhl jh vSj] dfo dh viuh eka dh el dj kgV [kks xbz gS] tks vrhr dh ckr cu xbz gA ckn ej og viuh eka dks Hkh [kks nrh gA

**11. What does “this circumstance” refer to?**

The ‘circumstance’ here refers to the death of the poet’s mother. The photograph of her dead mother makes the poet nostalgic and brings sad feelings from the past. But the poet has nothing to say at all about the circumstance because death is inevitable.

11- 'bl i fj l Fkr\* dk D; k vFkz gS

; gka ^i fj l Fkr\* kCh dfo dh eka dh eR; q ds fy; s mfYyf [kr gA ml dh er eka dh rLohj dfo dks mnkl hu cuk nrh gS vSj vrhr dh ; knka l snq k dh Hkkouk, a i Snk gkSt krh gA y d u dfo ds i kl dgus dks dN Hkh ugha gS D; k d er; q vo"; EHkkoh gA

**12. The three stanzas depict three different phases. What are they?**

The first stanza shows the poet’s mother as a twelve year old girl with a pretty smiling face. Then she is paddling with her two girl cousins on a beach. They all have a happy youthful laughter. This is before the poet was born. The second stage describes the middle-aged mother laughing at her own snapshot that was taken a long time back. The third stage describes the silence on the poet’s face at the death of her mother.

12- rhu inka ea rhu vyx&vyx pj. kka dks n'kiz; k x; k gA os D; k gA

igys in ea dfo dh eka dks l qnj el dj krs gq pgs; q r , d ckjg l ky dh yMedh ds: i eafn [kk; k x; k gA fQj og l e rV ij viuh nks ppjh cfguka ds l kFk i Mfyx dj jgh gA os l c i l UufpRr ; pk gjl h gW jgh gA ; g dfo; =h ds i Snk gkus l sigys dk l e; gA nhl js pj. k ea e/; e vk; qokyh dfo dh ekrk dk vi us LuS 'k, V dks nq kdj gjl us dk o. ku fd; k x; k gS tks cgr y os l e; igys fy; k x; k FkA rhl jk pj. k ml dh eka dh eR; q ij dfo ds pgs ij [kks kh ds Hko o. ku djrk gA