

 **Learnsea**



**Class 10 NCERT English Poems  
First Flight: Chapter-wise Summary**

## Dust of Snow by Robert Frost

### Stanza 1

*The way a crow  
Shook down on me  
The dust of snow  
From a hemlock tree*

The poet is walking alone on a cold, winter day. He feels very sad, upset, and full of regrets about something that happened earlier. He stops under a hemlock tree. This tree is dark green, poisonous in real life, and gives a gloomy, scary feeling (like bad luck or danger). A black crow (people often think crows mean bad news or death) is sitting on one of its branches. Suddenly, the crow moves its wings or body and shakes the branch hard. Because of this shake, some very fine, light snow (not big flakes, but tiny dust-like powder of snow) falls down from the tree – straight onto the poet's head, face, or clothes. This small, unexpected thing happens in just a second, but it starts to change everything.

### Stanza 2

*Has given my heart  
A change of mood  
And saved some part  
Of a day I had rued.*

That little dust of snow touches the poet gently and goes inside his feelings. His heart, which was heavy with sadness, anger, and regret before, suddenly feels lighter and fresh. The bad mood he was carrying all day disappears quickly – like magic! He was thinking the whole day was ruined and he was feeling very sorry ("rued" means he was regretting and wasting time feeling bad about his mistakes or problems). But now, because of this tiny snow moment from nature, at least some part of the day gets saved. He doesn't waste the remaining time being sad anymore. Instead, he feels positive, hopeful, and ready to enjoy or do something better with the rest of the day. One small action from a crow and a tree turned his gloomy day into something nicer.

## Fire and Ice by Robert Frost

### Part 1 (Lines 1-2)

*Some say the world will end in fire,  
Some say in ice.*

People have different opinions about how the world will end or be destroyed one day. Some people think it will end in "fire" (like a big burning explosion, hot and fast). Others think it will end in "ice" (like extreme cold, freezing everything slowly and silently). The poet is talking about big ideas – maybe from science (like sun exploding or ice age) or from feelings inside humans.

### Part 2 (Lines 3-5)

*From what I've tasted of desire  
I hold with those who favor fire.  
But if it had to perish twice,*

The poet says from his own life experience ("tasted of desire" means he has felt strong wants and passions), he agrees with the people who say fire will destroy the world. Desire (greed, lust, wanting too much) is like fire – it burns hot, fast, and can destroy everything quickly. He thinks fire fits because he has seen how powerful and dangerous desire is. Then he adds: if the world had to be destroyed two times (just imagine), he thinks fire would do it first.

### Part 3 (Lines 6-9)

*I think I know enough of hate  
To say that for destruction ice  
Is also great And would suffice.*

The poet also knows a lot about "hate" from his life. Hate is cold, emotionless, and cruel – it freezes feelings, makes people ignore others, and slowly kills relationships or societies. So, he says ice (symbol of hate) is also very powerful for destruction. It is "great" (strong enough) and "would suffice" (enough to finish the job completely). Hate can destroy the world slowly but surely, just like fire does fast.

## A Tiger in the Zoo by Leslie Norris

### Stanza 1

*He stalks in his vivid stripes  
The few steps of his cage,  
On pads of velvet quiet,  
In his quiet rage.*

**Easy explanation:** The tiger is walking slowly and carefully (stalks) back and forth in his small cage. His beautiful black and orange stripes look bright and clear ("vivid"). He takes only a few steps because the cage is tiny. His feet are soft like velvet (quiet and smooth), so no sound when he walks. But inside, he is full of anger ("quiet rage") – he is angry but can't show it loudly because he's trapped.

### Stanza 2

*He should be lurking in shadow,  
Sliding through long grass  
Near the water hole  
Where plump deer pass.*

**Easy explanation:** In the wild (what he "should" be doing), the tiger hides in dark shadows ("lurking"). He moves silently through tall grass, near a water hole where fat deer come to drink. He waits to hunt them quietly and powerfully – free and strong in nature.

### Stanza 3

*He should be snarling around houses  
At the jungle's edge,  
Baring his white fangs, teeth and claws,  
Terrorising the village.*

**Easy explanation:** The tiger should be at the edge of the jungle near villages. He should growl loudly ("snarling"), show his sharp white teeth and claws, and scare people in the village. He would be a real king of fear – free to roam and show his power.

### Stanza 4

*But he's locked in a concrete cell,  
His strength behind bars,  
Stalking the length of his cage,  
Ignoring visitors.*

But in reality, he is trapped in a hard concrete cell (zoo cage). His powerful body and strength are useless behind iron bars. He just walks the same few steps again and again. People (visitors) come to see him, but he doesn't care – he ignores them because he is sad and angry inside.

### Stanza 5

*He hears the last voice at night,  
The patrolling cars,  
And stares with his brilliant eyes  
At the brilliant stars.*

At night, when the zoo is quiet, he hears the last human voices leaving and the sound of cars patrolling (zoo guards). He looks up with his shining ("brilliant") eyes at the bright stars in the sky. The stars are free and far away – he can only stare and dream of freedom, but he's stuck forever.

Literary Device	Explanation	Example
Imagery	Creates vivid picture of tiger's condition	"pads of velvet quiet", "lurking in shadow"
Metaphor	Indirect comparison	"pads of velvet" (soft paws)
Personification	Tiger shown with human-like feelings	tiger feeling anger and helplessness
Alliteration	Repetition of consonant sounds	"lurking in shadow"
Contrast	Difference between zoo and jungle life	caged tiger vs free tiger
Repetition	Words repeated for emphasis	"he should be"
Enjambment	Sentence continues to next line	lines flow without punctuation
Symbolism	Tiger represents strength in captivity	zoo = confinement, jungle = freedom

## How to Tell Wild Animals by Carolyn Wells

### Stanza 1 (Asian Lion)

*If ever you should go by chance To jungles in the east;  
And if there should to you advance A large and tawny beast,  
If he roars at you as you 're dyin'  
You'll know it is the Asian Lion...*

**Easy explanation:** If you go to eastern jungles and a big, yellow-brown ("tawny") animal comes towards you and roars loudly while you're dying (being attacked), then it's definitely the Asian Lion. The funny part: You identify it only when it's too late – because the roar kills you!

### Stanza 2 (Bengal Tiger)

*Or if some time when roaming round,  
A noble wild beast greets you,  
With black stripes on a yellow ground,  
Just notice if he eats you.  
This simple rule may help you learn  
The Bengal Tiger to discern.*

**Easy explanation:** If a "noble" animal with black stripes on yellow body greets you while you're walking, just check if it eats you. If yes, it's the Bengal Tiger. Super funny – the "simple rule" is getting eaten to know it's a tiger!

### Stanza 3 (Leopard)

*If strolling forth, a beast you view,  
Whose hide with spots is peppered,  
As soon as he has leapt on you,  
You'll know it is the Leopard.  
'Twill do no good to roar with pain,  
He'll only lep and lep again.*

If you see an animal with spots like pepper on its skin and it jumps ("lept") on you, it's the Leopard. Even if you scream in pain, it won't help – the leopard will just jump again and again. Humour: Identification by repeated attacks!

### Stanza 4 (Bear)

*If when you're walking round your yard  
You meet a creature there,  
Who hugs you very, very hard,  
Be sure it is a Bear.  
If you have any doubts,*

*I guess He'll give you just one more caress.*

If in your yard a creature hugs you very tightly (bear hug), it's a Bear. If you're still not sure, don't worry – it will give you one more tight hug ("caress"). Funny twist: The bear's "love" hug crushes you!

### **Stanza 5 (Hyena and Crocodile)**

Though to distinguish beasts of prey  
A novice might nonplus,  
The Crocodile you always may  
Tell from the Hyena thus:  
Hyenas come with merry smiles;  
But if they weep they're Crocodiles.

If a beginner (novice) gets confused ("nonplus" = puzzled) while trying to tell apart dangerous meat-eating animals ("beasts of prey"), don't worry! There's a simple way to know the difference between a Hyena and a Crocodile. Hyenas always look happy – they come with big, cheerful smiles (like laughing). But if the animal is "weeping" or crying fake tears, then it's definitely a Crocodile. (Funny fact: "Crocodile tears" means fake sadness – crocodiles are said to cry while eating their prey to look innocent!)

### **Stanza 6 (Chameleon)**

*The true Chameleon is small,  
A lizard sort of thing;  
He hasn't any ears at all,  
And not a single wing.  
If there is nothing on the tree,  
'Tis the chameleon you see.*

The real Chameleon is a very small creature, more like a tiny lizard than anything big or scary. It has no ears at all, and definitely no wings (unlike birds or dragons!). The funniest way to spot it: If you look at a tree and see absolutely nothing there (no animal visible), then it's the Chameleon! Why? Because it changes its colour to perfectly match the tree or background – it becomes invisible. So "nothing on the tree" means the Chameleon is hiding right in front of you by blending in.

## The Ball Poem by John Berryman

### Part 1 (Lines 1-6)

*What is the boy now, who has lost his ball,  
What, what is he to do? I saw it go  
Merrily bouncing, down the street, and then  
Merrily bouncing, down the street, and then  
Gently it fell into the water.*

The poet sees a young boy playing with his ball on the street. The ball is bouncing happily ("merrily") full of joy and energy. Suddenly, it rolls away, bounces down the street, and gently drops into the water (harbour/pond/sea). The boy is shocked – his favourite toy is gone forever. The poet asks: What will the boy do now? He feels helpless and sad.

### Part 2 (Lines 7-14)

*An ultimate shaking grief fixes the boy  
As he stands rigid, trembling, staring down  
All his young days into the harbour where  
His ball went. I would not intrude on him;  
A dime, another ball, is worthless.  
Now He senses first responsibility In a world of possessions.  
People will take Balls, balls will be lost always, little boy.  
And no one buys a ball back. Money is external.*

The boy is frozen with deep, shaking sadness ("ultimate shaking grief"). He stands stiff and trembling, staring into the water where his ball disappeared – it's like he's looking back at all his happy childhood moments ("young days") that are now gone with the ball. The poet doesn't want to disturb him by giving money or a new ball – because a new one can't replace the old one (it's "worthless"). This is the boy's first big lesson in life: In this world, things we own (possessions) can be lost or taken. No one can buy back what is lost – money is just outside ("external"), it can't fix real emotional loss.

### Part 3 (Lines 15-20)

*He is learning, well behind his desperate eyes,  
The epistemology of loss, how to stand up  
Knowing most every man must someday  
Lose something he loves, and how to stand up.*

Behind the boy's desperate, sad eyes, he is quietly learning a big life truth ("epistemology of loss" = deep understanding of losing things). He is figuring out how to accept loss, how to "stand up" strong even when something you love

is gone forever. Everyone in life, every grown-up, has to face losing something dear one day (toys, people, dreams). The boy is growing up by learning to bear this pain without breaking.

Literary Device	Explanation	Example
Imagery	Creates visual picture of the scene	Ball bouncing and falling into water
Symbolism	Ball represents childhood and memories	Loss of ball = loss in life
Repetition	Repeating words for emphasis	“ball” repeated
Alliteration	Same consonant sound repeated	“buys a ball back”
Enjambment	Sentence continues to next line	Lines flow without punctuation
Metaphor	Indirect comparison	Ball = life experiences/loss
Tone	Poet’s attitude	Serious and thoughtful
Free Verse	No fixed rhyme or rhythm	No rhyme scheme

Word	Meaning
Merrily	Happily, cheerfully
Bouncing	Jumping up and down
Harbour	Place where ships stay
He senses	He feels or understands
Epistemology	Study of knowledge (here, understanding loss)
Possessions	Things owned by someone
Trembling	Shaking slightly
Grief	Deep sadness

## Amanda! by Robin Klein

Don't bite your nails, Amanda!  
Don't hunch your shoulders, Amanda!  
Stop that slouching and sit up straight,  
Amanda!

There is a languid, emerald sea,  
where the sole inhabitant is me  
a mermaid, drifting blissfully.

Did you finish your homework, Amanda?  
Did you tidy your room, Amanda?  
I thought I told you to clean your shoes,  
Amanda!

I am an orphan, roaming the street.  
I pattern soft dust with my hushed, bare feet.  
The silence is golden, the freedom is sweet.

Don't eat that chocolate, Amanda!  
Remember your acne, Amanda!  
Will you please look at me when I'm speaking to you,  
Amanda!

I am Rapunzel, I have not a care;  
life in a tower is tranquil and rare;  
I'll certainly never let down my bright hair!

Stop that sulking at once, Amanda!  
You're always so moody, Amanda!  
Anyone would think that I nagged at you,  
Amanda!

The poem *Amanda!* portrays a young girl who is constantly controlled and corrected by her parent. She is repeatedly told to improve her habits, complete her homework, maintain cleanliness, and behave properly. This continuous stream of instructions reflects the pressure children often face from adults who expect discipline and perfection. Amanda, however, does not respond directly; instead, she escapes into her imagination to find peace and freedom.

In her fantasies, Amanda imagines herself as a mermaid drifting alone in a calm sea, an orphan roaming freely without any restrictions, and Rapunzel living peacefully in a tower. Each of these imagined situations highlights her deep desire for independence, silence, and a life without constant interference. Interestingly, even situations that are usually considered sad, like being an orphan, appear attractive to her because they offer freedom from control.

The poem contrasts Amanda's rich inner world with her restrictive external reality. While her parent believes they are guiding her, their constant nagging makes Amanda feel suffocated and withdrawn. In the end, the parent criticizes Amanda for being moody, without realizing that their own behaviour is the cause. Overall, the poem highlights the importance of understanding children's emotions and giving them space, rather than overwhelming them with continuous instructions.

Literary Device	Explanation	Example
Repetition	Repeated use of words for emphasis	“Amanda!” repeated
Anaphora	Repetition at the beginning of lines	“Don’t... Don’t... Stop...”
Metaphor	Indirect comparison	Mermaid, orphan, Rapunzel represent freedom
Imagery	Creates mental pictures	“languid, emerald sea”
Alliteration	Same starting sound	“languid... emerald” (soft sound effect)
Rhyme	Some lines follow rhyme pattern	sea – me, street – feet
Contrast	Difference between reality and imagination	Strict parent vs free fantasies
Tone	Poet’s attitude	Controlling (parent), dreamy (Amanda)

## The Trees by Adrienne Rich

The Trees is an interesting, but difficult poem. It needs to be read several times before we can fully understand its meaning and its significance. Also, we will be able to understand the poem more easily if we know something about the poet, Adrienne Rich, and her message. She was a feminist, which means that she worked to free women from the oppression of men and to help them win their right to be equal to men.

Adrienne Rich talks about trees trying to move out of the boundary of a house with four walls, and into an open forest. However, we know that trees don't move. So, Adrienne Rich uses trees as an extended metaphor, as a symbol of the search for freedom.

Freedom from what? There are two possible explanations. The first is the conflict between man and nature. Man has shown no respect for nature. He has cut trees and destroyed forests. Plants, that have the potential to grow into large trees, are caged and bounded in pots inside houses because they are used for interior decoration. However, they need to be outside, in open spaces, to grow to their full size. So, at one level, this poem speaks of trees reaching out for freedom from the captivity of humans. Remember this visual always!

There is another explanation too. We know that Adrienne Rich spoke out for women's causes. In her poems, she has often used trees as a metaphor for women. She was a staunch supporter of women's rights and their attempt to break free from male oppression. Seen in this perspective, the trees symbolize women, who have grown to the point where they now want to rebel against men who have confined them to small spaces. They want to be free to stretch and grow. There is one line in the poem, the fourth stanza, which is very important: 'Listen. The glass is breaking'. There is a sense of urgency here. She is trying to attract attention to the fact that women all over the world, are breaking glass ceilings and insisting on their right to be recognized as being equal to men. The glass ceiling is a metaphor for an invisible, but powerful barrier of discrimination that prevents women and minorities from being chosen or hired into a senior position within an organization.

### Stanza 1

*The trees inside are moving out into the forest,  
the forest that was empty all these days  
where no bird could sit  
no insect hide  
no sun bury its feet in shadow*

*the forest that was empty all these nights  
will be full of trees by morning*

The trees will not be held back anymore. They are moving into their rightful place in the barren forest, where there is no place for a bird to sit, for an insect to hide, nor the shade of a tree where the sun's rays can hide their feet. It speaks of their determination to move out by the morning.

### **Stanza 2**

*All night the roots work  
to disengage themselves from the cracks  
in the veranda floor.  
The leaves strain towards the glass  
small twigs stiff with exertion  
long-cramped boughs shuffling under the roof  
like newly discharged patients  
half-dazed, moving  
to the clinic doors*

The trees work with a great sense of urgency to free themselves from the cracks in the veranda floor. The leaves stretch towards the glass - they want to cross that barrier, beyond which they will be free. The small twigs are stiff because they have been working so hard. And the boughs of the trees move with great difficulty because they have been cramped for so long. They look like patients who have just been discharged from hospital, half dazed.

### **Stanza 3**

*I sit inside, doors open to the veranda  
writing long letters  
in which I scarcely mention the departure  
of the forest from the house.  
The night is fresh, the whole moon shines  
in a sky still open  
the smell of leaves and lichen  
Still reaches like a voice into the rooms.*

The poet is detached from the preparations for the movement of the trees. She sits inside her house, writing several long letters, in which she does not mention that the trees will be moving out soon. Though she is sitting inside, the door is open, and she is aware of the freshness of the night, and of the open sky, where she sees the full moon. At the same time, she is also aware of the smell of leaves

and lichen from the trees inside her house. These smells are the whispering voices of the trees, this is how they speak to her. But she knows that the trees will move out at night, and the next day there will be silence. There is an unspoken acceptance.

#### Stanza 4

*My head is full of whispers  
which tomorrow will be silent.  
Listen. The glass is breaking.  
The trees are stumbling forward  
into the night. Winds rush to meet them.  
The moon is broken like a mirror, its pieces flash now in the crown  
of the tallest oak.*

The glass has broken. The trees are free! They stumble out; they are not sure-footed because they have been rooted for so long. They are greeted by winds that rush to meet them. They will re-populate the barren earth. The moon is now no longer whole, as the tall, strong oak trees claim part of the sky. The moon looks as if it has been broken like a mirror, and its pieces flash from behind the top of the tallest oak tree

#### Literary Devices – “The Trees”

1. **Free Verse:**  
No fixed rhyme or rhythm; lines vary in length.
2. **Extended Metaphor:**  
Trees represent **women breaking free** from restrictions.
3. **Simile:**  
Comparison using *like/as*.  
*Example:* branches moving **like patients**, voice **like a whisper**.
4. **Personification:**  
Trees given human qualities.  
*Example:* roots working, branches shuffling.
5. **Imagery:**  
Creates visual and sensory effect.  
*Example:* trees moving, moon shining, smell of leaves.
6. **Alliteration:**  
Repetition of consonant sounds.  
*Example:* *long letters, forest from, sky still.*

## Fog by Carl Sandburg

*The fog comes  
on little cat feet.*

*It sits looking  
over harbour and city  
on silent haunches  
and then moves on.*

This poem presents fog in a very simple but powerful way. The poet compares the fog to a cat to show how quietly it arrives. Just like a cat walk softly without making any noise, the fog also comes silently and gently. You do not hear it or notice when it appears, which gives it a mysterious quality.

The fog is then described as sitting and looking over the harbour and the city. This makes it feel alive, as if it is watching everything around it. The phrase silent haunches continue the comparison with a cat, which often sits quietly while observing its surroundings. This creates a calm and still image in the reader's mind.

In the end, the fog moves away just as quietly as it came. There is no sound or disturbance. It simply disappears. This shows that fog is temporary in nature. It comes suddenly, stays for a short time, and leaves without any trace.

The poem uses very few words, but it clearly captures the quiet, gentle, and mysterious nature of fog.

Literary Device	Explanation	Example
Metaphor	Fog compared to a cat	“fog... little cat feet”
Personification	Fog given life-like qualities	sits, looks, moves
Imagery	Creates visual scene	fog covering city and harbour
Free Verse	No rhyme or rhythm	no fixed structure

## The Tale of Custard the Dragon by Ogden Nash

### Characters

- **Belinda** – A little girl, brave and bold
- **Ink** – Her little black kitten
- **Blink** – Her little grey mouse
- **Mustard** – Her little yellow dog
- **Custard** – Her little pet dragon
- **The Pirate** – The villain of the story

Belinda lived in a little white house,  
With a little black kitten and a little  
gray mouse,  
And a little yellow dog and a little red  
wagon,  
And a realio, trulio, little pet dragon.

Now the name of the little black kitten  
was Ink,  
And the little gray mouse, she called  
her Blink,  
And the little yellow dog was sharp as  
Mustard,  
But the dragon was a coward, and she  
called him Custard.

Custard the dragon had big sharp  
teeth,  
And spikes on top of him and scales  
underneath,  
Mouth like a fireplace, chimney for a  
nose,  
And realio, trulio, daggers on his toes.

Belinda was as brave as a barrel full of  
bears,  
And Ink and Blink chased lions down  
the stairs,  
Mustard was as brave as a tiger in a  
rage,  
But Custard cried for a nice safe cage.

Belinda tickled him, she tickled him  
unmerciful,  
Ink, Blink and Mustard, they rudely  
called him Percival,  
They all sat laughing in the little red  
wagon  
At the realio, trulio, cowardly dragon.

Belinda giggled till she shook the  
house,  
And Blink said Week!, which is  
giggling for a mouse,

Ink and Mustard rudely asked his age,  
When Custard cried for a nice safe  
cage.

Suddenly, suddenly they heard a nasty  
sound,  
And Mustard growled, and they all  
looked around.  
Meowch! cried Ink, and Ooh! cried  
Belinda,  
For there was a pirate, climbing in the  
winda.

Pistol in his left hand, pistol in his  
right,  
And he held in his teeth a cutlass  
bright,  
His beard was black, one leg was  
wood;  
It was clear that the pirate meant no  
good.

Belinda paled, and she cried, Help!  
Help!  
But Mustard fled with a terrified yelp,  
Ink trickled down to the bottom of the  
household,  
And little mouse Blink was  
strategically mouseholed.

But up jumped Custard, snorting like  
an engine,  
Clashed his tail like irons in a  
dungeon,  
With a clatter and a clank and a  
jangling squirm  
He went at the pirate like a robin at a  
worm.

The pirate gaped at Belinda's dragon,  
And gulped some grog from his pocket  
flagon,  
He fired two bullets but they didn't hit,  
And Custard gobbled him, every bit.

Belinda embraced him, Mustard licked him,  
No one mourned for his pirate victim  
Ink and Blink in glee did gyrate  
Around the dragon that ate the pyrate.

Belinda still lives in her little white house,  
With her little black kitten and her little gray mouse,  
And her little yellow dog and her little

red wagon,  
And her realio, trulio, little pet dragon.

Belinda is as brave as a barrel full of bears,  
And Ink and Blink chase lions down the stairs,  
Mustard is as brave as a tiger in a rage,  
But Custard keeps crying for a nice safe cage

The poem tells a humorous story about a girl named Belinda who lives in a small white house with her pets: a kitten named Ink, a mouse named Blink, a dog named Mustard, and a dragon named Custard. All the pets, except Custard, think of themselves as very brave. They often show off their courage and make fun of Custard because he always asks for a safe cage, which makes him appear cowardly.

Custard looks fierce and dangerous, with sharp teeth, spikes on his body, and a strong appearance. However, despite his looks, he is treated as weak and is constantly teased by the others. Belinda and her pets laugh at him and call him names, believing that he lacks courage.

One day, a sudden danger appears when a pirate enters the house with weapons and a threatening look. At that moment, the true nature of each character is revealed. Belinda cries for help, the dog Mustard runs away, the kitten Ink hides, and the mouse Blink disappears into a hole. All those who claimed to be brave fail to face the danger.

In contrast, Custard, who was always called a coward, shows real bravery. He stands up against the pirate, fights him fiercely, and finally kills him, saving everyone in the house. This proves that true courage is not about words or boasting, but about actions in difficult situations.

After the danger is over, Belinda and the other pets praise Custard for his bravery. However, very soon, they return to their old habits. They again begin to boast about how brave they could have been if they had not been scared. Custard, on the other hand, remains humble and quietly agrees that everyone else is braver than him.

The poem teaches that real courage is shown through actions, not by boasting, and that people who appear weak may actually be the strongest when it truly matters. Real bravery is proven through actions, not empty words.

## For Anne Gregory by W.B. Yeats

### Stanza 1

*“Never shall a young man,  
Thrown into despair  
By those great honey-coloured  
Ramparts at your ear,  
Love you for yourself alone  
And not your yellow hair.”*

The speaker tells Anne Gregory that young men are attracted only to her beautiful golden hair, not her true inner self. Her outer beauty distracts them so much that they cannot see her real personality, so they do not love her genuinely.

### Stanza 2

*“But I can get a hair-dye  
And set such colour there,  
Brown, or black, or carrot,  
That young men in despair  
May love me for myself alone  
And not your yellow hair.”*

Anne replies confidently: "No problem! I can dye my hair any colour – brown, black, or even carrot (orange)!" If her hair changes and looks less attractive, then boys won't be distracted by beauty. They might love her for her real self (inner qualities) instead of outer looks. She is optimistic and wants genuine love, not based on appearance.

### Stanza 3

*“I heard an old religious man  
But yesternight declare  
That he had found a text to prove  
That only God, my dear,  
Could love you for yourself alone  
And not your yellow hair.”*

The speaker counters strongly: Last night ("yesternight"), I heard an old holy/religious man say (from a Bible text or scripture) that only God can truly love someone for their inner self alone, without caring about physical beauty like your yellow hair. Human love is always influenced by looks. No man can do it purely. It's a sad but realistic end.