

**Q1. What is the kind of pain and ache that the poet feels?**

**Ans:** The poet noticed her mother's pale face as she was leaving her parents' house. The poet compared her mother's "ashen" visage, which was likewise devoid of any energy and colour, to a corpse. She understood that her mother had gotten older and was getting close to passing away during the previous decades. Her underlying dread of being lost causes her to become sentimental as a result of these thoughts, and she begins to recall bits and pieces of her early memories. She was extremely troubled by the thought of avoiding her mother. Her inability to do anything was evident even in the smile on her face.

**Q2. Why are the young trees described as 'sprinting'?**

**Ans:** The poet was concerned about her mother when she was travelling to the airport. She was concerned that as she grew older, her time was running out. To take her mind off her problems, she glances out the cab window at the young trees, which almost seem to be racing. The trees appeared to be virtually racing past them when viewed from the speeding cab. The trees' sprinting represents the speed at which time moves. We begin as infants and quickly grow older, carrying both good and painful memories in our hearts. Her mother, who is old and frail and appears inert when napping in the car, stands in stark contrast to this image of energy and strength. The young' trees show life in contrast to her mother's approaching death.

**Q3. Why has the poet brought in the image of the merry children 'spilling out of their homes'?**

**Ans:** In several places, the poem contrasts the images of life and death. The happy children represent vitality, joy, beauty, and strength, qualities we frequently lose as we age. While the mother is inside the taxi, fast asleep from exhaustion, the kids are enjoying their youth playing outside. She has grown frail and withered as she draws closer to death. The poet contrasted the two in order to highlight how drastically different they were from one another. Our time here on earth begins when we are children, and it ends when we are old.

**Q4. Why has the mother been compared to the 'late winter's moon' ?**

**Ans:** The mother of the poet is 66 years old. Her 'ashen' shrunken face looks like a corpse. She no longer exudes the radiance and vigour of youth. The late winter moon appears foggy and opaque in a similar way. It also lacks lustre and sturdiness. The parallel is quite appropriate and natural. Here, the metaphor is both appropriate and powerful.

**Q5. What do the parting words of the poet and her smile signify?**

**Ans:** The poet's parting words of comfort and her smiles stand in stark contrast to the childhood fears or aches that are so well-known to us. She makes a conscious effort to conceal her true emotions through her words and smiles. The elderly woman, whose "ashen visage" appears to be that of a corpse, is comforted by the parting words, "See you soon, Amma." Similar to this, her unceasing smiles are an effort to get over the pain and terror inside her heart.