

WORKSHEET - VI

PERIOD I

1. The poetess was going to the Cochin airport. Her mother had come to see her off.
2. The poet's mother looked ashen like a corpse. The poet felt sad and there was pain in her realization as she feared she would lose her mother.
3. The poetess related her mother's appearance to that of a corpse as she was old and she looked close to death.
4. The poet realized with pain; the fear of separation and a sense of helplessness at her inability to do anything for her mother.
5. The realization was painful because the poet was helpless for her mother's condition as she can't do anything for her mother.
6. The poet put that thought away because she got distracted from driving the car by thinking about her mother's impending death.

1. The poet watches young trees speeding past them; happy children are moving out of their homes cheerfully. They present an image of life, dynamism and activity.
2. The poetess had contrasted the 'dozing' mother with 'spilling' of children and the 'ashen' and 'corpse-like' face is contrasted with young trees 'sprouting' outside.

PERIOD 2

1. The mother was old and looked ashen like a corpse.
2. The 'wan' and 'pale' describes the face of the mother, comparing to 'a late winter's moon.'
3. In this simile, the poet compares the mother's pale and withered face with the winter's moon. The moon seems to lose its brightness in the winter as it is veiled behind fog and mist so is the mother, covered with her old age.
4. The poet compares her mother to a late winter's moon as the moon loses its brightness behind the fog in winter and her mother's old age is covering her life.

5. 'The old familiar ache' refers to the agony and pain of separation from her mother that the poet felt in her childhood, as she feared that she might lose her mother.

6. The poet's ache returned at the airport when she looked at her mother's ageing face filled with wrinkles. She felt helpless at her mother's condition.

7. Separation from her mother was a troublesome and heart-felt thought. At the airport, she looked at her mother's pale, wan, and weak appearance which reminded her of her childhood fear.

8. The poet knew her mother was also aware of the same. Yet, to encourage her, to leave a hope in her mind, the poet promised a futile reunion in the future.

9. The poet's repeated smile seemed out of place in a way i.e. she had no reason to smile at the time of separation from her aged mother.