



ENGLISH
A PHOTOGRAPH

Name: _____

Date: _____

Class: XI Sec: ____

Read the given stanza and answer the questions that follow:

“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.

1. What does the phrase “smiling through their hair” signify in the poem?

- A The girls who were photographed had their hair decorated
- B The photographed girls were wearing a mask
- C When the girls were smiling for the camera, their hair was covering their faces.
- D The hair of the girls in the picture was smiling as well

2. What has remained constant over time?

- A The photo
- B The cardboard
- C The girls
- D The sea

3. Identify a term in the extract that describes something as “lasting only briefly”?

- A. Still
- B. Transient
- C. Changed
- D. Less

4. What poetic device involving epithets was used in the poem?

- A. Terribly transient
- B. Through their
- C. Both wry
- D. Laboured ease

Short answer type questions:

- 1) What is the meaning of the line “Both wry with the laboured ease of loss”
- 2) The three stanzas depict three different phases. What are they?
- 3) The poet’s mother laughed at the snapshot. What does this laugh indicate?

Long answer type question:

- 1) “Its silence silences”, writes Shirley Toulson. The loss of her mother has silenced her. Do you think that this attitude of the poet is the right attitude to live life? Why? Why not?



INDIAN SCHOOL NIZWA - WORKSHEET