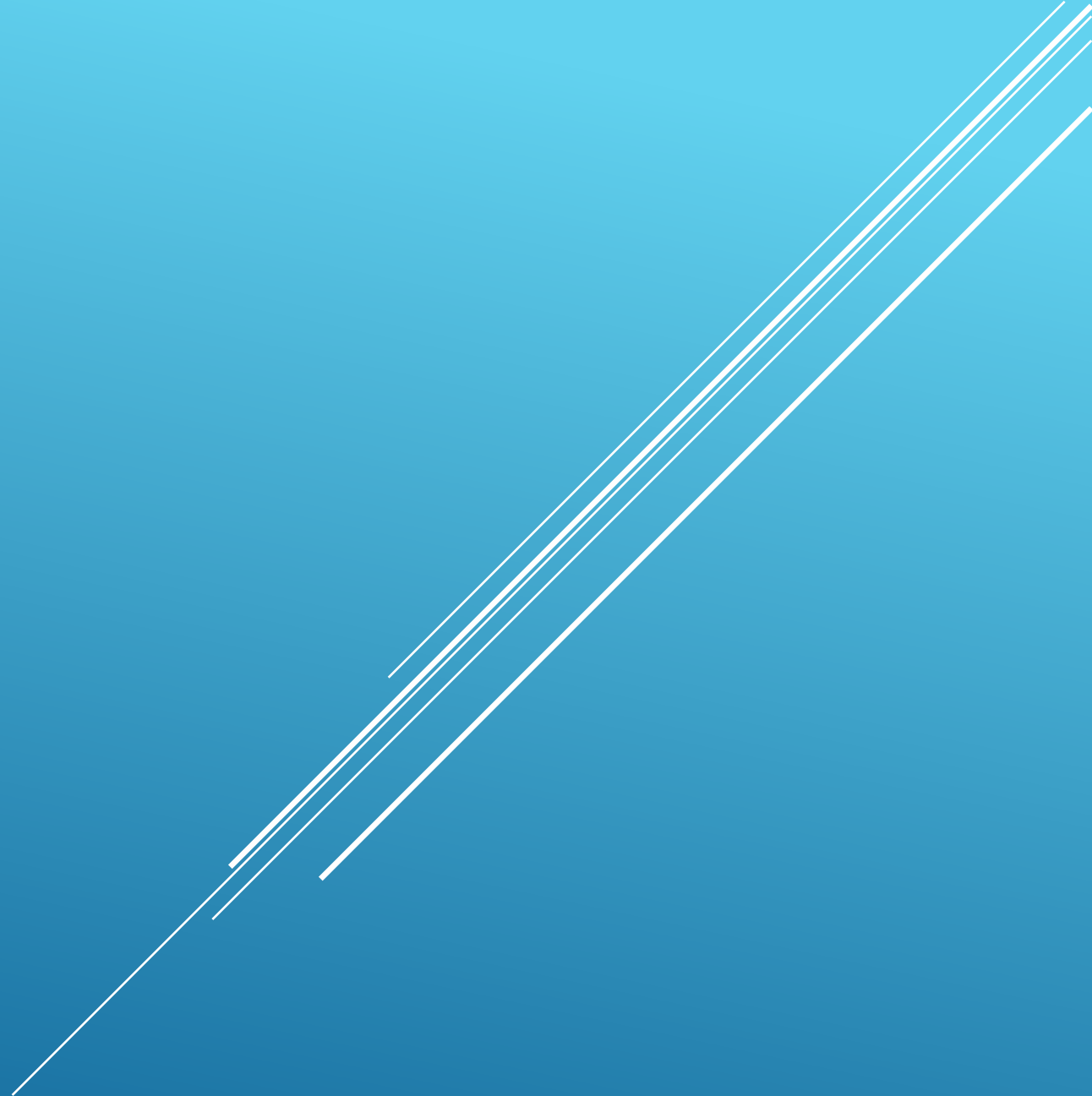
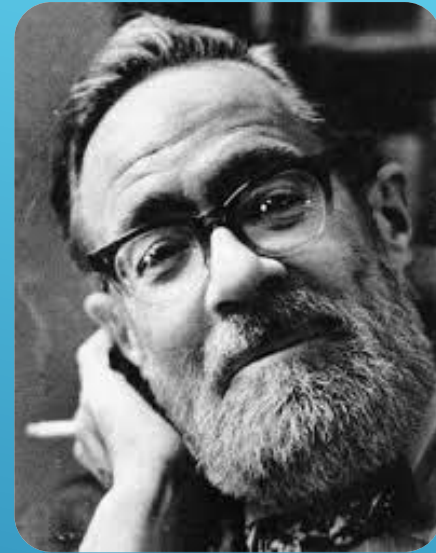


THE BALL POEM

BY JOHN BERRYMAN





ABOUT THE POET

- ❑ JOHN ALLYN Mc. ALPHIN BERRYMAN
- ❑ AN AMERICAN POET AND SCHOLAR
- ❑ BORN ON 25 OCTOBER 1914 IN Mc ALESTER, OKLAH, USA
- ❑ AWARDED WITH PULITZER PRIZE FOR POETRY IN 1969
- ❑ DIED ON 7 JANUARY 1972

- ▶ **POET TELLS US ABOUT OUR REACTIONS AT SOME MATERIAL LOSS**
- ▶ **A BOY LOSES A BALL IN THE WATER AND IS VERY UPSET AT LOSS.**
- ▶ **A BALL DOESN'T COST MUCH OR DIFFICULT TO BU BUT THE POET WANTS THE CHILD TO UNDERSTAND THAT LOSING THINGS IS A COMMON THING OF LIFE.**

INTRODUCTION OF THE POEM

- ▶ ONE SHOULD CHERISH EVERY MOMENT OF LIFE
- ▶ LIFE IS REALLY VERY SHORT
- ▶ THE POET REALISES THAT IT IS VERY DIFFICULT TO DEAL WITH THE LOSS BUT IT MUST BE DONE
- ▶ WE SHOULD MOVE ON AS THERE IS NO USE IN WASTING PRECIOUS TIME AND LIFE.
- ▶ OVERREACTION AT A MATERIALISTIC LOSS, FUSS OVER SMALL THING

PLOT/THEME/CENTRAL IDEA

- ▶ A GOOD COMBINATION OF TONE, IMAGERY AND SYMBOLISM
- ▶ BEGINNING TONE IS DEPRESSING
- ▶ BALL SYMBOLISES THE LOSS OF INNOCENCE AND CHILDHOOD
- ▶ LIKE LOST BALL CHILDHOOD CAN'T BE RETRIEVED
- ▶ ENDING TONE IS ENCOURAGING WITH A MESSAGE THAT
- ▶ THAT LIFE SHOULD BE LIVED AS IT IS AND WE SHOULD MOVE ON WITH THE CHANGING TIME
- ▶ POEM IS IN FREE VERSE

STYLE OF POEM

- ▶ **The poem consists of 25 lines in total. These lines are not divided into stanzas. Here they are divided into meaningful segments for the purposes of this summary in order to make the poem easier to understand and follow.**

ABOUT THE POEM

- ▶ **“The Ball Poem” is a very subtle and beautiful poem about a little boy’s growing up. The poet sees this little boy one day when he has just lost his ball. The loss of his ball is teaching him that in life, we often lose things and they cannot be easily replaced. Such lessons are a part of growing up, and everyone has to learn them at some point in time or the other. However, it is painful for the poet to watch the boy in his sad state. He is sure that the ball, as well as the person who whistles by the boy, feels the same way as he does.**

SUMMARY

- ▶ This poem is set near the harbour, as the poet says that the little boy's ball rolled away from him and into the water. Both the poet and the boy are near the harbor. The poet can, in fact, see the boy and even his facial expressions very clearly.

THE SETTING OF THE BALL POEM:

THANK YOU

BY MS SIJAL

