NCERT Solutions for Class 12 English Flamingo Poem 1

Question 1.
What do you think is the pain and the ache that the poet feels?
Answer:
The poet was driving back from her parent's home to Cochin, and she gazed at her mother, sleeping, beside her. The poet felt agonized at the thought of her mother growing old. The realisation that her mother was inching towards death made the poet sad as she was plagued by the thought of losing her.

Question 2.
Why are the young trees described as 'sprinting'?
Answer:
The poet, in order to distract her mind from the painful sight, looks out of the window. The trees outside her car window rushed past her as she drove ahead. On looking out from a moving vehicle, stationary objects seem to be moving in the opposite direction. Kamala Das compared the trees to young children, with boundless energy running past her window. She uses the poetic device of personification to achieve this comparison.

Question 3.
Why has the poet used the image of the merry children "spilling out of their homes"?
Answer:
The poet saw the children rushing out of their homes. The children were young and full of life, a sad contrast to her aged mother. They represented joyousness and vitality, a contrast to the ashen visage of the poet's ageing mother. The image of the children lends a contrast to her mood.

Question 4.
Why has the mother been compared to the "late winter's moon"?
Answer:
The ashen and pale visage of her mother led the poet to compare her mother with that of a late winter's moon. The winter moon that had lost its luminosity and was waning is used as a simile to compare the mother's old and pale countenance.

Question 5.
What do the parting words of the poet and her smile signify?
Answer:
The parting words of the poet and her smile signify her pain and fear of losing her mother. She tried to put on a brave front by hiding her fear behind a smile. She tried to hide her fear from her mother as she called out, "See you soon, Amma." The smile also might mean a forced optimism which allowed her to believe that her mother might yet live for a long time

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