

## Thinking about the Poem (Page 62)

### 1. How old do you think Amanda is? How do you know this?

**Ans.** Amanda is a little, middle aged (8-12 years) school going girl.

We know this because of the reference of a mermaid and Rapunzel. Also, the instructions given to her, for doing homework, nail biting, correcting posture, etc are generally given to children of such an age group.

### 2. Who do you think is speaking to her?

**Ans.** Any one of Amanda's elder's or parents is speaking to her. From the instructions given to Amanda, one can say that it is most probably Amanda's mother or governess.

### 3. Why are stanzas 2, 4 and 6 given in parenthesis?

**Ans.** Stanza 2, 4 and 6 are given in parenthesis because

they reflect the inner thoughts of Amanda. Amanda is lost in her dream world and is not listening to what her mother is asking/telling her.

### 4. Who is the speaker in stanzas 2, 4 and 6? Do you think this speaker is listening to the speaker in stanzas 1, 3, 5 and 7?

**Ans.** The speaker in stanza 2, 4 and 6 is the child, Amanda. No, Amanda is not listening to the speaker of stanza 1, 3, 5 and 7, as she is lost in the world of her imagination.

### 5. What could Amanda do if she were a mermaid?

**Ans.** If Amanda were a mermaid, she could be the only resident of the beautiful green sea where she would float in the soft waves of the sea. There, she could relax and enjoy her freedom.

### 6. Is Amanda an orphan? Why does she say so?

**Ans.** No, Amanda is not an orphan, though she wishes to be an orphan.

She says so because she is upset at being scolded again and again by her mother. Thus, she thinks that if she had been an orphan, she would be free and her life would be peaceful.

**7. Do you know the story of Rapunzel? Why does she want to be Rapunzel?**

**Ans:** Rapunzel was a beautiful golden haired princess who lived in a tower. She had very long hair by which she used to allow people to come into her tower. Amanda believes that Rapunzel's life in the lonely tower would be very happy. So, she wanted to be Rapunzel and wishes to live in such a tower, away from everyone. She even imagines that in order to live a happy life she would never allow anyone to come into her tower.

**8. What does the girl yearn for? What does this poem tell you about Amanda?**

**Ans.** The girl Amanda yearns or desires for freedom and peace in life.

According to the poem, Amanda feels that her freedom has been limited by her mother. She is fed up of the constant scolding and instructions by her mother. She wants to go away and live a peaceful life.

**9. Read the last stanza. Do you think Amanda is sulking and moody?**

**Ans.** No, Amanda is neither sulking nor she is acting moody. The speaker (her mother) of the last stanza thinks so because Amanda is not paying any attention to her instructions, rather she is lost in her own world.