

POEM 22 : THE TRUTH

By Barrie Wade

Sticks and stones may break my bones
But words can also hurt me.
Stones and sticks break only skin
While words are ghosts that haunt me.

Slant and curved the word swords fall
To pierce and stick inside me.
Bats and bricks may ache through bones
But words can mortify me.

Pain from words has left its scar
On mind and heart that's tender.
Cuts and bruises now have healed;
It's words that I remember.

Q1. Which objects mentioned in the poem can cause physical injury?

Ans: The objects that can cause physical injury are sticks and stones, bricks and bats.

Q2. What have “words” in the poem been compared with?

Ans. The words in the poem have been compared with ghosts.

Q3. Complete the following statement in your own words.

Words are called ghosts that haunt us because _____

(i) **they trouble our mind for a long time.**

(ii) they are invisible.

(iii) we cannot fight them or overcome them.

Q4. Words have been called 'swords' in Stanza II(2). Why?

Ans-Words have been called swords because they are sharp and hurt people.

Q5. Which two words describe the 'swords'?

The two words that describe the sword are curved and slanted.

Q6. Select the meaning from the ones below that best explains the line 'pierce and stick inside' in Stanza II.

(a) **The impact of bitter words is deep and long-lasting.**

(b) Swords injure sharply.

(c) The wound caused by a sword doesn't heal up.

Q7. Identify the word from Stanza II that describes the effect of 'words' on the poet.

Ans. In the second stanza the word that describes the effect of "words" is mortified. These words can humiliate us and make our life miserable.

Q8. Where has the pain left the scar?

Ans. The pain has left a scar on the mind and heart of the poet.

Q9. What happened to the poet's physical injury?

Ans:- The poet's physical injury has healed.

Q10. Why could he not forget the words?

A10.) He could not forget the words because it was painful and pierced the poet's heart.

Q11. Why do words hurt more than weapons?

Ans. Words hurt more than weapons because pain by words cannot go away. Physical pain heals over time.

Q12. State the theme or central idea of the poem in 50-60 words.

Ans. According to the poem, words can be a source of strength, affect your mind, and make you feel different emotions. Unkind words are more painful than wounds caused by weapons. Physical wounds heal but emotional injury lasts very long because words linger and haunt us. Therefore, we should control our language and negative emotions for others such as anger, hatred, etc.