

NCERT Solutions for Class 9 English

Chapter 8 – A Slumber Did My Spirit Seal

1. “A slumber did my spirit seal,” says the poet. That is, a deep sleep ‘closed off’ his soul (or mind). How does the poet react to his loved one’s death? Does he feel bitter grief? Or does he feel great peace?

Ans: At the death of his loved one, the poet's mind and soul are devoid of any human fears or sensations. He has the impression that his intellect has been numbed by a profound slumber that prevents him from feeling either bitter anguish or wonderful peace. He only thinks about what his loved one must be going through after death, describing how she remains still on her deathbed.

2. The passing of time will no longer affect her, says the poet. Which lines of the poem say this?

Ans: “She seemed a thing that could not feel

The touch of earthy years.”

The poet uses these phrases to illustrate how the passage of time will no longer influence his loved one.

3. How does the poet imagine her to be after death? Does he think of her as a person living in a very happy state (a ‘heaven’)? Or does he see her now as a part of nature? In which lines of the poem do you find your answer?

Ans: According to the poet, Death has turned his loved one into a part of nature. He imagines her buried in the dirt, rolled by its everyday motions like other natural objects like stones, rocks, and trees. The poem's concluding words, "Rolled round in earth's diurnal motion, with rocks and stones and trees," reveal the poet's imagination.