

# DELHI PUBLIC SCHOOL, GAYA

## WORKSHEET-2

Subject : English

Class : XII

### *(My Mother at Sixty-Six)*

#### Reference-to-Context-Exercises

Read the extracts given below and answer the questions that follow.

(a) *...last Friday  
morning,  
I saw my mother  
beside me,  
doze, open mouthed, her face  
ashen like that  
of a corpse...*

- (i) Where was the poet going?
- (ii) What did the poet realize on looking at her mother's face?
- (iii) Explain the line: "her face ashen like that of a corpse..."
- (iv) Why does dozing take place in a decrepit person?

(b) *that she was as old as she  
looked but soon  
put that thought away, and  
looked out at young  
trees sprinting, the merry children spilling  
out of their homes.*

- (i) What thought drifted through the poet's mind?
- (ii) Why did she look out?
- (iii) What did she look at?
- (iv) Mention the poetic device: *trees sprinting*.

(c) *..., but after the airport's  
security check, standing a few yards  
away, I looked again at her wan,  
pale...*

- (i) Who is 'her' here? Why does the poet look at her again?
- (ii) Where was the poet standing?
- (iii) What did the poet compare her face with?
- (iv) Who was standing a few yards away from the security check at the airport?

#### Short Answer Questions

1. Where were the poet and her mother going?
2. Why does the poet compare her mother with a 'corpse'?
3. Why was the author pained to see her mother?
4. What is the contrast between the scene inside the car and the car outside?
5. Why did the poet say, "All I did was smile and smile and smile..."?