



**INDIAN SCHOOL MUSCAT
SENIOR SECTION
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH
CLASS X
AMANDA! - ROBIN KLEIN**



DATE

MESSAGE

The poem, 'Amanda', teaches that children tend to learn bad habits. It is natural for a childlike Amanda to seek freedom. Parents who are judging their children every time would do more harm than good. To make children understand certain things, parents must become friends also whenever needed.

SUMMARY

This poem is about the views of a girl named Amanda about liberty in life. She is instructed not to bite her nails and not to hunch her shoulders. She is instructed to sit straight. She wants freedom and wishes to draft in the sea like a mermaid. The speaker asks her if she has done her homework, tidied her room and cleaned her shoes. The girl wishes that she should be an orphan roaming freely in the dusty streets. The speaker forbids her to eat chocolate but the little girl does not even look at the speaker because she does not like this type of restrictions. She considers herself to be Rapunzel who can live a carefree life in a tower all by herself.

I. Read the extract and answer the questions that follow:

1. Don't eat that chocolate, Amanda!

Remember your acne, Amanda!

Will you please look at me when I'm speaking to you,

- (a) What does the speaker tell Amanda about chocolate?
- (b) Why should she not eat chocolate, according to the speaker?
- (c) What does the speaker want Amanda to do when she is being spoken to?
- (d) Was Amanda listening to the speaker?

2. Don't bite your nails Amanda!

Don't hunch your shoulders, Amanda!

Stop that slouching and sit up straight,

Amanda!

- (a) Who do you think is speaking to Amanda?
- (b) In which mood is Amanda?
- (c) What was Amanda's posture?
- (d) What was she instructed not to do?

II. Answer the following questions in 30-40 words:

- 1. Who is the mermaid in 'Amanda' and what does 'she' wish to do?
- 2. Who was Amanda? What idea do you form of her through the poem?
- 3. Why does she dream to be an orphan?
- 4. Amanda imagines herself to be Rapunzel, yet would not like to do what all Rapunzel did.

Identify and state the reasons for her decision.

5. Why is Amanda forbidden to eat chocolate? How does Amanda behave when she is addressed by the speaker?

III. Answer the following question in 100-120 words:

- 1. Bringing up children/teenagers can be both a challenge and fun. How far do you agree? Express your views with reference to Amanda's life.