**Cherry Tree**

Ecstasy -

‍a feeling or state of great happiness

Wonder -

to want to know something; to ask yourself questions about something

Fragile -easily damaged or broken

Immense -very big or great

Dappled -having spots of a different shade, tone, or colour from the background

Slender - used about a person or part of somebody’s body) thin in an attractive way

Scythe - a tool with a long handle and a long, curved piece of metal with a very sharp edge (a blade). You use a scythe to cut long grass, corn, etc.

Shoot -a new part of a plant or tree

Lust - very strong desire to have or get something

Scarcely- only just; almost not

Fragile - easily damaged or broken

Mere - used for emphasizing how small or unimportant something is) nothing more than.

Finch - a small bird with a short strong beak

Flit - to fly or move quickly from one place to another without staying anywhere for long

Bloom - to produce flowers

Explanation (Stanza wise)

* The poet is telling about his experience of how he planted a cherry tree and its struggle. In the beginning, the poet tells that it was eight years have passed when he thought that he must have his own tree, and take care of it and in such thought, he just sow a cherry seed in his garden and just watered it once, and went bed after that he literary forgot that he sows a cherry tree and he has to take care of it.
* Further, the poet says that cherries have their way to grow up means nature has its way to grow though no one knows or takes care of it. Suddenly, the poet saw over the summer season and at the end of May month that the cherry grew up. It was very little as a five-month-old child’s age.
* The poet tells the condition and threats of the cherry sapling. It was hidden in the tall wild grass. The leaves of the cherry are eaten by goats. It is a great threat to Cherry sapling that at any moment the grass cutter scythe split it apart and monsoon causing damage to Cherry sapling. The stem of the Cherry sapling dried.
* Even so, next spring the poet watched three new shoots grow on it. The cherry sapling starts to survive in the worst conditions. The young cherry tree struggles and pushes itself to grow upward, its branches (arms) are growing fast to take light, air, and sun rays.
* Further, the poet says that he could only watch nature’s ways of growing as anyone who just watched the growth of trees. The poet is wandering in the thoughts that how time grows the Cherry tree and makes a miracle of growth from the Cherry tree.
* In the next year, the poet went away to spend a season in Kashmir. When he returned from Kashmir, he was very thin and rather became poor but when he saw the Cherry tree became richer because the cherry tree grew six feet tall and laded with greenery. The poet saw and scarcely believed that the cherry has a berry on the one branch which is ripened and looks like a red jewel in the sun’s rays.
* In the next year, the Cherry tree was blooming with flowers and the flowers are very small, pink colour, very tender (fragile) and at any mildest breath or mildest wind (breeze) the flowers will quickly fall.
* In the last stanza, the poet was enjoying the sights of the Cherry tree and the nature of its surrounding. The poet lay comfortably on the grass under the Cherry tree and looked up through the leaves at clear the blue sky, the singing birds (finches) are singing they flying over the Cherry tree from the gap of leaves and branches. While the bees are sucking the nectar happily (ecstasy) from every bloomed flower. After that, the sun sank very fast and stars appeared in the sky. In the night the moon moths, singing crickets and the poet praised the beauty of night stars and the Cherry tree that small cherry tree was grown by the poet.

### **Appreciation of the poem**

#### **About the Poem, poet, and title**

* The poem, the Cherry tree is written by the great poet Ruskin Bond. The poem is about the poet’s inner feelings about the cherry tree that he planted in the thought of growing the cherry tree on his own and taking care of himself. The title Cherry tree is very apt and suitable because the poet shows the development and growth of the cherry tree and its struggles. The poet mentioned each stage of growth of the cherry tree that’s why the title is apt to the poem.

#### **Theme/summary/gist of the poem**

* The subject matter of the poem is about the poet’s love and attraction toward nature. The poet thought to plant the cherry tree and in such thought the sow the cherry seed. Poet shows the stages of growth of the cherry tree. The poet mentioned the threats of the cherry tree and how the cherry tree struggled to survive and nature has its way to grow itself. At the end of the poem, the poet shows the beautiful scenery of the cherry tree and its surrounding.

#### **Poetic style/language, poetic devices**

* The poem, the Cherry tree is a narrative poem. In the poem, the poet tells the story of the growth of the cherry tree and its struggle. The language of the poem is very simple and narrative. In the poem, the poet increased the beauty of the poem by using the figure of speech as Alliteration, Antithesis, Personification, climax, etc. the poem has rhyming words that give rhythmic quality to the poem. The rhyme scheme of the poem is aa, bb,  dd, ee,ff, etc.

Following literary devices/poetic devices have been used in the poem Cherry Tree written by Ruskin Bond:

* Alliteration – Consonant sounds are repeated in successive words for melody. “Its arms in a fresh fierce lust” Here, the consonant sound ‘f’ is repeated pleasingly. “Made a miracle from green growing” Here, the consonant sound ‘g’ and ‘m’ is repeated. “Shrivelled the slender stem….” Here, the consonant sound ‘s’ is repeated.
* Antithesis – Opposite ideas/words are used together. Example – “but cherries have a way of growing, Though no one’s caring very much or knowing.” -Opposite idea of growing without caring is seen in the lines. “It was very small, five months child Lost in the tall grass running wild.” -Opposite ideas – small and tall are seen in the lines.
* Climax – words, phrases, lines are arranged in ascending order of their importance. Examples “Pink, fragile, quick to fall”
* Personification – Human qualities are attributed to non-human, inanimate objects. Example – “A Tree had come to stay” A tree is given the human quality of coming and staying.

#### **Special features/novelties/focusing elements**

* The poem is a nature poem. It has fine nature imagery used by the poet. The poet shows the stages of growth of the cherry tree as the life stages of a human being. In the poem, the poet shows how nature grows itself without taking by anyone. The poem has fine picturesque quality by showing the nature image and scenery.

#### **Message /value/morals in the poem**

* The poet gives the message that we should take of nature; at least we should plant a tree and take care of it. The poet urges that to do tree plantation conservation of nature. if we take care of nature, nature will take care of us.

#### **Your opinion about the poem**

* I am really impressed by the poem and the poet’s thoughts. It has a positive and hopeful tone in the poem. The poet’s thoughts encourage me to plant at least one tree and take care of it. From the struggle of the Cherry tree, we should take the lesson that in any situation we should be always positive and hopeful. After every worst or dark situation, there will be a better and bright future ahead. If we face the problems, and obstacles positively victory is sure. Thus, I like the poem and its optimistic tone of life.