

CHILDHOOD

MARKUS NATTEN



*What is Childhood ?
What is Adulthood ?
You are at what stage?*





*In this poem the poet is in a
dilemma as to where his
childhood has disappeared.
He is not sure ,at what stage
he should make the demarcation.*

Comparison

• **Childhood**

- Innocence
- Can be seen on an infant's face
- Loving
- Dependant on adults

• **Adulthood**

- Hypocrisy
- Individuality
- Rationalism
- Independent

Childhood

- *When did my childhood go ?*
- *Was it the day I ceased to be eleven.*
- *Was it the time I realised that Hell and Heaven,*
- *Could not be found in Geography,*
- *And therefore could not be,*
- *Was that the day!*
- *When did my childhood go ?*
- *Was it the time I realised that adults were not*
- *All they seemed to be,*
- *They talked of love and preached of love,*
- *But did not act so lovingly,*
- *Was that the day!*
- *When did my childhood go?*
- *Was it when I found my mind was really mine,*
- *To use which ever way I choose,*
- *Producing thoughts that were not those of other people*
- *But my own and mine alone*
- *Was that the day!*
- *Where did my childhood go*
- *It went to some forgotten place,*
- *That is hidden in an infant's face,*
- *That's all I know.*



The Poet is in a dilemma

-when did he lose his childhood

-was it at eleven

-when he became aware that heaven

and hell cannot be found in geography

-and so concluded ,they do not exist.



When did his childhood go?

- when he realized that adults were hypocrites*
- they advised others to be loving, but themselves were hardly affectionate.*



When did the poet lose his childhood?

- *Was it-*

When he realized that he was the master of his mind

- *Took his own decisions*



- *Sense of individuality dawned on him*

Where did the poet's childhood disappear?



- *To some forgotten place*
- *Hidden in an infant's face*



THEME



- *Outlines the difference between childhood and adulthood*
- *Childhood is a stage that follows infancy*
- *Adulthood is a stage that follows childhood.*

SIMILAR POEMS

- ***A childhood forgotten, A childhood lost***
A childhood forgotten, a childhood lost By: Dani B.

*I can't remember,
Skipping rocks on the pond,
My childhoods forgotten,
My Childhoods lost,*

*Going to the lake,
Sitting on the beach,
Playing with friends,
or dancing in the streets,*

*I can't remember,
The crash in the fog,
My childhood was forgotten,
My childhood was lost,*

Self assessment

- *Identify the stanzas that talk of*
 - individuality*
 - rationalism*
 - hypocrisy*
- *What did the child observe in the behaviour of adults?*
- *Where can the poet find his childhood?*

Assignment

- *Answer, Questions with reference to context*
- *Stanza I*
 - *What is the constant worry of the poet?*
 - *Why does the poet take 11 years as the age of demarcation?*
 - *Why can't Heaven and Hell be found in Geography?*
 - *Was that the day!-Explain.*