

Amanda!

by Robin Klein



About the Poet

- Robin Mc Maugh Klein is an Australian author of books for children. She writes Children's and young adult fiction. Some of her famous books are Hating Alison Ashley, People might hear you, etc.



Introduction to the lesson

Robin Klein has expressed the views of a little girl, Amanda who is constantly pointed out by her mother for making mistakes. Mistakes which she considers so as they are not part of the code of good conduct laid out by the society in which we live.

Amanda Summary of the poem

The poem describes a girl named Amanda and her mother who is nagging her for her mistakes. She is first pointed out most probably by her mother for biting her nails and for not sitting in the right posture. The mother also feels that Amanda sits in a very lazy manner. To this, Amanda imagines herself as a mermaid who lives a calm and relaxing life in the beautiful green sea. Further, she is nagged for not cleaning her room and shoes and also for not doing her homework. She then imagines herself to be an orphan because she is now fed up of being watched by her parents continuously. She says that she would have enjoyed her freedom then, by making the patterns of her bare feet on the sand and would live a peaceful life.

Amanda Summary of the poem

Next, Amanda is scolded for eating too many chocolates as this causes pimples. She is also scolded for not listening to her mother. So, now Amanda thinks of being Rapunzel, a character from a fairy tale and wants to live in a huge tower like her. In the tower she will be alone and will live a peaceful life and will never allow anyone to come in. Finally, the mother asks her to stop being moody because she doesn't want anyone to blame her for harassing her daughter. At this time the poet has not written any reaction from Amanda's side. This constant nagging has made her so sad that she has even stopped to imagine herself as someone else. She used to do so in order to escape from the continuous harassment and dominance of her parents.

Amanda Poem and explanation

Don't bite your nails, Amanda!

Don't hunch your shoulders, Amanda!

Stop that slouching and sit up straight,

Amanda!

(There is a languid, emerald sea,

where the sole inhabitant is me—

a mermaid, drifting blissfully.)

Amanda Poem and explanation

Word meanings

Hunch: bend

Slouching: sitting in a lazy way

Languid: relaxed

Emerald: here, green color

Inhabitant: resident

Drifting: carried slowly by the water

Blissfully: happily

Amanda Poem and explanation

The poet is describing Amanda, a little girl who is always pointed out by her mother for her mistakes and how she imagines her life to be. The poet says that the mother is pointing out Amanda for biting nails which is a bad habit. Next she asks her to sit straight without bending her shoulders. Amanda who has habit of bending her shoulders and sitting lazily is being pointed out because her mother wants her to sit in the right posture. At this point of time, when she is being scolded by her mother, she imagines herself to be in a deep green sea. She says that she wants to be the only resident of this beautiful green sea. She imagines herself like a mermaid who is alone there and leads her life in a very relaxing way. She says that she wants to be carried away by the current of water and feel the relaxing environment there.

Amanda Poem and explanation

Literary devices:

Anaphora: Repeated use of a word at start of two or more lines (don't bite... don't hunch)

Assonance: use of vowel sound 'o' (don't hunch your shoulders)

Rhyme: aaba ccc (Amanda, Amanda, straight, Amanda, sea, me, blissfully)

Metaphor: use of word emerald sea for green colour of sea being similar to the colour of emerald

Amanda Poem and explanation

Literary devices:

Repetition: use of word 'Amanda'

Imagery: drifting blissfully

Alliteration: 'Stop that slouching and sit up straight' – 's' sound is being repeated at the start of closely placed words.

Allusion: 'mermaid' is a well known imaginary creature.

Amanda Poem and explanation

Did you finish your homework, Amanda?

Did you tidy your room, Amanda?

I thought I told you to clean your shoes,

Amanda!

(I am an orphan, roaming the street.

I pattern soft dust with my hushed, bare feet.

The silence is golden, the freedom is sweet.)

Amanda Poem and explanation

Word meanings

Orphan: A child whose parents are dead

Hushed: quiet and still place

Amanda Poem and explanation

Here the poet says that Amanda's mother is inquiring her about whether she has done her homework or not? And then she asks her whether she has cleaned her room or not. Moreover she is also reminded to clean her shoes. So, here we can see that the mother is constantly asking her questions regarding her homework being done or not or whether she had cleaned up her room and shoes or not. But on the other hand, while Amanda is listening to her mother's instructions, she imagines herself to be an orphan who is roaming in the streets.

Amanda Poem and explanation

This means that she imagines if she would have been without parents she would have walked freely in the streets. She would have drawn designs on the soft dust with her uncovered feet very quietly. So, we can see that she thinks opposite to her mother. Her mother wants her to keep everything neat and clean. But Amanda wants to play in dust with her bare feet. Moreover, she is so fed up of these constant instructions from her mother, that she says silence is golden which means that silence is very crucial and precious. She further says that freedom is sweet. This means she never feels free when she is with her mother.

Amanda Poem and explanation

Literary devices:

Anaphora: Repeated use of a word at start of two or more lines (did you finish....did you tidy)

Rhyme: Rhyme scheme is aada eee (Amanda, Amanda, shoes, Amanda, street, feet, sweet)

Amanda Poem and explanation

Literary devices:

Assonance: use of vowel sound 'o' (Thought, told, you, your, shoes)

Repetition: use of word 'Amanda'

Metaphor: silence is golden – silence is said to be glorious like golden colour

freedom is sweet – freedom is said to be sweet in taste.

Amanda Poem and explanation

Don't eat that chocolate, Amanda!

Remember your acne, Amanda!

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

Amanda!

(I am Rapunzel; I have not a care;

life in a tower is tranquil and rare;

I'll certainly never let down my bright hair!)

Amanda Poem and explanation

Word meanings

Acne: Pimples

Rapunzel: A girl in the fairy tale by Brothers Grimm

Tranquil: calm, quiet

Rare: uncommon

Amanda Poem and explanation

Next, Amanda's mother is disallowing her to eat chocolates. She reminds her of pimples that Amanda faces due to eating chocolates. At last she scolds her for not paying attention to what her mother says. At this moment Amanda imagines herself to be Rapunzel. Rapunzel was a character from a fairy tale that was captured in tower by a witch. The witch used to climb the tower with the help of long hair of Rapunzel that were let down by her through the window. So, now Amanda wants to be Rapunzel because she feels that life in the tower will be peaceful and unusual. She thinks she will be free and live in a peaceful environment in the tower. She also confirms to herself that she will never let her hair down to anyone so that nobody could come to her in the tower.

Amanda Poem and explanation

Literary devices:

Allusion: use of famous fairy tale character Rapunzel

Rhyme: rhyme scheme aafa ggg (Amanda, Amanda, you, Amanda, care, rare, hair)

Assonance: use of vowel sound 'e' and 'o' (Will you please look at me when I'm speaking to you)

Consonance: use of sound 'r' (I am Rapunzel; I have not a careBright hair)

Repetition: use of word 'Amanda'

Amanda Poem and explanation

Stop that sulking at once, Amanda!

You're always so moody, Amanda!

Anyone would think that I nagged at you,

Amanda!

Amanda Poem and explanation

Word meanings

Sulking: be in a bad mood

Moody: unstable

Nagged: harass

Amanda Poem and explanation

Amanda's mother now warns her for behaving in a very odd manner. She asks her to stop being in a bad mood. Moreover she blames her of having such an unstable mood. She also scolds her by saying that her behavior will one day make people think that Amanda was constantly being harassed by her mother. So, here we can say that though Amanda is always pointed out by her mother on every small thing but she can't react to this. If she reacts towards this by getting emotional her mother takes this against her sense of pride and scolds her that she should not behave like this as others would think that Amanda's mother is very dominating towards her child.

Amanda Poem and explanation

Literary Devices:

Alliteration: 'Stop that sulking' – 's' sound is repeated at the start of closely placed words

Repetition: use of word 'Amanda'

Rhyme scheme: aaha (Amanda, Amanda, you, Amanda)



Thank You