

Chapter 10: A Slumber Did My Spirit Seal

Thinking about the poem

Question 1:

"A slumber did my spirit seal", says the poet. That is, a deep sleep 'closed off' his soul (or mind). How does the poet react to his loved one's death? Does he feel deep sense of grief? Or does he feel a great peace?

Answer:

The poet is shocked and surprised at the death of his loved one. It feels painful. Death does not make anyone feel good. It is always associated with misery.

Question 2:

The passing of time will no longer affect her, says the poet. Which lines of the poem say this?

Answer:

"She seemed a thing that could not feel the touch of earthly years".

Question 3:

How does the poet imagine her to be, after death? Does he think of her as a person living in a very happy state (a 'heaven')? Or does he see her now as a part of nature? In which lines of the poem do you find your answer?

Answer:

The poet imagines her to be an inseparable part of nature. No, he does not think so because 'heaven' is not a dead thing. It is shown in the line 'Rolled round in earth's diurnal course/With rocks and stones and trees'.