**Appreciation of the poem**

**Somebody’s Mother**

The poem ‘Somebody’s Mother’ is written by Mary Dow Brine. The main theme of this poem is that we should always be unselfish and help others. The main feature of this poem is to have compassion and kindness for others like the young boy had for the old woman. It leaves the reader with a thought provoking message and a good feeling in the heart to help who are in need.

The title of the poem ‘Somebody’s Mother’ refers to one of the characters from the short incident narrated in the poem. The poem is written by the American author, poet and lyricist Mary Dow Brine. She is known for her children’s books. The poem is written in rhyming couplets and so the rhyme scheme is ‘aabb’ and it gives the poem a unique musical effect. The tone of the poem is serious. It is a narrative poem and reading it is an emotionally overwhelming experience. Inversion is frequently used throughout the poem for better poetic effect in the lines “At the crowded crossing she waited long” and “Came happy boys”. The poet uses Synecdoche by showing a part of the whole, like ‘feet and heart’ in place of ‘old woman and boy’. Transferred Epithet has also been used for ‘anxious eye’ and ‘young heart’.

The poem highlights the importance of compassion (kindness and humanity)and how each stranger is important in somebody’s life. The poem starts on a gloomy note but ends with a positive note. The poet tells us about a story of an old lady who needs help but is neglected by others. Until a young boy comes along to help her. It shows while the world around the old woman was cruel and dangerous, the boy stood as a symbol of kindness and safety. This poem gives a beautiful message that we should lend a helping hand to those in need. There might be a day when our own mother might be in a similar situation and at times we want somebody to help her. The poem also teaches us that it is important for young people to treat elders with love, respect and care.

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