

Oh, I Wish I'd Looked After Me Teeth

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3. On the basis of your reading of the poem, complete the following table.

Stages in the life of the poet (a) Youth	Activities eating toffees _____ _____ _____ _____	Consequences _____ _____ _____ _____
(b) Adulthood	_____ _____ _____	gazing at the dentist in despair.

Answer

Stages in the life of the poet	Activities	Consequences
(a) Youth	eating toffees <u>chewing sweet sticky food</u> <u>picking and licking lollies and candies</u> , eating <u>large and small sherbet dabs</u> . _____	<u>Paving way to cavities, caps and decay.</u> _____ _____ _____
(b) Adulthood	<u>Going to the dentist due to tooth decay, amalgamation, drilling and fillings.</u>	gazing at the dentist in despair.

4. On the basis of your understanding of the poem, answer the following questions by ticking the correct choice.

(a) The title 'Oh, I wish I'd looked after me teeth' expresses _____ . (i) regret (ii) humour (iii) longing (iv) pleasure

Answer (i) regret

(b) The conscience of the speaker pricks her as she has _____ . (i) been careless (ii) been ignorant (iii) been fun loving (iv) been rude

Answer (i) been careless

(c) The speaker says that she has paved the way for cavities and decay by _____. (i) eating the wrong food and not brushing (ii) not listening to his mother (iii) laughing at his mother's false teeth (iv) not listening to the dentist

Answer (i) eating the wrong food and not brushing

(d) The tone of the narrator is one of _____. (i) joy (ii) nostalgia (iii) regret (iv) sorrow

Answer (iii) regret

5. Answer the following questions.

(a) “...But up-and-down brushin’ And pokin’ and fussin’ Didn’t seem worth the time - I could bite!” What do these lines convey?

Answer

These lines show that the poet did not realise the importance of regular brushing and proper hygiene, when she was a child. She did not care for her teeth daily. She thought it was useless and worthless to clean her teeth after eating anything.

(b) Why did the poet go to the dentist? How could she have avoided it?

Answer

The poet went to the dentist to get her teeth examined. She had developed cavities in her teeth due to unhealthy eating habits and irregular brushing of teeth.

She could have avoided it if she had taken proper care of her teeth by brushing them properly and regularly.

(c) “If you got a tooth, you got a friend.” What do you understand from the line?

Answer

A tooth is like a friend. As a lost friend can never be regained, a lost tooth can never grow again. It cannot be regained or made naturally.

(d) With reference to the poem, how can you look after your teeth?

Answer

- (i) Brushing properly twice a day.
- (ii) Rinsing after each meal, avoiding sweet and sticky food for better oral hygiene.
- (iii) Regular dental checkup to maintain healthy teeth.

(e) Given an appropriate proverb that conveys the message that this

poem carries.

Answer

Appropriate proverb that conveys the message that this poem carried is "Prevention is better than cure."