

The Shed

Frank Flynn

Stanza 1

In the first stanza, the speaker sets the scene by describing an old shed at the bottom of their garden. The shed has a spider's web hanging across the door and rusty hinges that creak in the wind. This description creates a spooky and mysterious atmosphere. The speaker often listens to the sounds of the shed from their bed, contemplating the idea of opening the door someday, indicating a mix of fear and curiosity.

Stanza 2

The second stanza shifts focus to a dusty window on the side of the shed, with three cracked panes of glass. The speaker feels like someone is watching them whenever they pass by, enhancing the eerie and haunted feeling associated with the shed. Despite this unsettling feeling, the speaker resolves to peek through the window one day, signifying a desire to confront their fears and uncover the truth.

Stanza 3

In the third stanza, the speaker's brother contributes to the mystery and fear by claiming that a ghost hides under the rotten floorboards of the shed and would chop off their head if they ever dared to enter. This stanza highlights elements of sibling rivalry and the use of scary stories to keep the shed as his own private space. The speaker, however, remains determined to take a peek inside the shed one day, showing a budding sense of bravery and a quest for rationality.

Stanza 4

The final stanza reveals the speaker's rational thinking. They acknowledge that the ghost is just a story made up by their brother, who tells lies to keep the shed for his den. The speaker also notes that there haven't been any strange noises, and the spider's web has been long abandoned. Despite understanding that these fears are unfounded, the speaker concludes with a promise to enter the shed soon, but not just yet. This reflects a thoughtful and patient approach to overcoming fears, balancing courage with a cautious pace.

Tanmoy Saha

Reference to the Context Questions

Extract 1

"There's a shed at the bottom of our garden
With a spider's web hanging across the door,
The hinges are rusty and creak in the wind.
When I'm in bed I lie and I listen,
I'll open that door one day."

Very Short Answer Questions:

1. Describe the location and condition of the shed as mentioned in the poem.
2. What does the speaker often do while lying in bed?
3. Write one synonym of "creak".

Extract 2

"My brother says there's a ghost in the shed
Who hides under the rotten floorboards,
And if I ever dare to set foot inside
He'll jump out and chop off my head,
But I'll take a peek one day."

Very Short Answer Questions:

1. What story does the speaker's brother say about the shed, and what is its intended effect?
2. How does the speaker plan to confront the fear instilled by their brother?
3. Write one antonym of "rotten".

Short Answer type questions:

1. Is the speaker afraid or curious, or both? Give reasons.
2. Why did the speaker's brother try to scare the speaker? Explain in brief.

Higher Order Thinking Question:

1. Leonard Nimoy once said "Logic is the beginning of wisdom, not the end." How is it reflected in the poem "The Shed." Elucidate.