

Amanda!

→ Speaker insistence and frustration
→ Highlight the intensity of speaker's tone

Every child feels that she/he is controlled and instructed not to do one thing or another. You too may feel that your freedom is curtailed. Write down some of the things you want to do, but your parents/elders do not allow you to. To read the poem aloud, form pairs, each reading alternate stanzas. You are in for a surprise!

Don't bite your nails, Amanda! Shows conflict

* Mother is constantly nagging / correcting Amanda

Don't hunch your shoulders, Amanda!

* Repetitive nature of mother's instructions

Stop that slouching and sit up straight,

Amanda!

* Imagery

Paints a picture of beautiful and serene (peaceful) underwater world

calm & relaxing → greenish-blue color stone

(There is a languid, emerald sea, where the sole inhabitant is me—a mermaid, drifting blissfully.)

* Imaginative escape into fantasy world where she gets freedom and solitude

Did you finish your homework, Amanda?

* Frustrated mother

Did you tidy your room, Amanda?

* Keeping Amanda accountable for various chores and responsibilities

I thought I told you to clean your shoes,

* Repetitive criticism
* Annoying tone

Amanda!

Create a sense of serenity and escape ←

(I am an orphan, roaming the street, I pattern soft dust with my hushed, bare feet.

silent

The silence is golden, the freedom is sweet.)

↳ Contrast to nagging

↳ Contrast to restrictions she feels

* Stark contrast between the nagging and Amanda's fantasy escape

Don't eat that chocolate, Amanda! Diet

Remember your acne, Amanda! Appearance

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

Amanda!

a place of confinement
↓
becomes a place of
tranquility and
rarity

* Frustrated tone

a famous fairy tale character (a young woman trapped in a tower)

(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!)

→ refuse to speak & smile

Stop that sulking at once, Amanda!

You're always so moody, Amanda!

Anyone would think that I nagged at you,
Amanda!

* In fairy tale Rapunzel
lets down her hair for
prince to climb but
here she doesn't
want anyone to
intrude on her
peaceful solitude

* Enrity upset,
irritable

* Mother believes Amanda's moodiness makes
her seem like a bad parent. It also
suggests the mother
might be aware of her own critical
tone but tries to downplay it.

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Glossary

languid: relaxed

drifting: moving slowly

pattern: make patterns

tranquil: calm

First Flight

Thinking about the Poem

→ 9-12 years

1. How old do you think Amanda is? How do you know this?
2. Who do you think is speaking to her?
3. Why are Stanzas 2, 4 and 6 given in parenthesis?
4. Who is the speaker in Stanzas 2, 4 and 6? Do you think this speaker is listening to the speaker in Stanzas 1, 3, 5, and 7? No →
5. What could Amanda do if she were a mermaid?
6. Is Amanda an orphan? Why does she say so?
7. Do you know the story of Rapunzel? Why does she want to be Rapunzel?
8. What does the girl yearn for? What does this poem tell you about Amanda?
9. Read the last stanza. Do you think Amanda is sulking and is moody?

Focus on chores and
behaviors

→ Imaginative escape

→ Concern about posture
and hygiene

- Explore underwater
world
- Find serenity
- Friends
- Sing

- No response
- Conflict betⁿ mother's
external instructions &
Amanda's inner world of
freedom

- ③ - Showing Amanda's inner world
- Contrasting reality and fantasy
- Emphasizing silence

* Not necessarily a disrespectful
child - just a coping mechanism
to deal with constant
criticism

* Mother $\begin{cases} \text{bossy} \\ \text{demanding} \\ \text{critical} \\ \text{commanding} \end{cases}$