

Poem No.

13

A Tale of Two Cities

(John Peter)

In the storms of the shrills
Of arms, smoke and the drills
All were scarred, burnt and afraid
Powerless and helpless were they made.

Woeful were all the hills
Wasteful were all the grills
None to share their moans
None to lessen their groans.

The flowers, flavours all smashed
Burnt, crushed and all dashed
And all passed through the grind
Leaving there nothing behind.

No eye could look
The explosion that took
The lives of two glories
In the moments of furies.

All was done by a nation
Who in her wild passion
Cared not for the human rights
Nor saved them from deadly fights.

But how much great were they
Who bore the pains of black day:
“Ashes are not merely the waste
They can really create the great.”

Glossary

woeful	grieved
smashed	destroyed

Theme

The people of the two cities of Japan passed through the most cruel period of their lives when the atomic bombs burst, and destroyed the glory of their culture and civilization. They suffered all the pains and pangs patiently and boldly, and did not lose heart. They, with their great will and determination, again rose to the heights as an economic power from the ashes.

EXERCISES

- Why did the people of the two cities look powerless and helpless?
- Describe the circumstances the victims had to pass through.
- Describe the scene of devastation.
- What is the moral lesson of the poem?
- Write down the rhyming words and use them in your sentences.
- Write two more rhyming words:
 - afraid _____
 - moans _____
 - kites _____
