

WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO LULU

by *Charles Causley*

I

What has happened to Lulu, mother?
What has happened to Lu?
There's nothing in her bed but an old rag-doll
And by its side a shoe.

II

Why is her window wide, mother,
The curtain flapping free,
And only a circle on the dusty shelf
Where her money-box used to be?

III

Why do you turn your head, mother,
And why do tear drops fall?
And why do you crumple that note on the fire
And say it is nothing at all?

IV

I woke to voices late last night,
I heard an engine roar.
Why do you tell me the things I heard
Were a dream and nothing more?

V

I heard somebody cry, mother,
In anger or in pain,
But now I ask you why, mother,
You say it was a gust of rain.

VI

Why do you wander about as though
You don't know what to do?
What has happened to Lulu, mother?
What has happened to Lu?

1. How is the persona related to Lulu?

2. In stanza 1, why did the persona address Lulu as Lu only?

3. In stanza 1, what is the significance of Lulu leaving her old rag doll behind?

4. In stanza 2, what do you think had happened to Lulu's money-box?

5. In stanza 3, why do you think the persona's mother turn her head away from the persona ?

6. In stanza 4, whose voices do you think the persona had heard the night before?

7. "I heard an engine roar" (stanza 4)
What does the roaring of the engine suggest?

8. Do you think the persona is a boy or a girl? Give a reason for your answer.

9. State one characteristic of the persona. Give a reason for your answer.

10. State one characteristic of the persona's mother. Give a reason for your answer.

11. What do you think has actually happened to Lulu? Give a reason for your answer.

12. Nowadays, teenagers are reported to run away from home. Give two reasons why they do so?

Reason 1 : _____

Reason 2: _____

SUGGESTED ANSWERS : What Has Happened To Lulu?

1. They are siblings.
2. Because that is the nickname that the persona gave to Lulu.
3. It is as if Lulu has grown into a teenager and left behind her childhood memory.
4. Lulu has taken it along with her to be used.
5. Because the mother did not want the persona to see her cry.
6. The voices of Lulu and her boyfriend.
7. The roaring of the engine suggests that the accelerator was pressed hard as Lulu and her friend were in a hurry to leave her place.
8. I think the persona is a boy because he does not share the same room with Lulu.
I think the persona is a girl because she seems to have a close relationship with Lulu.
9. Curious/ Inquisitive because the persona asked her mother a lot of questions./ Observant because she could notice even little things or changes around her.
10. Secretive because she tried not to disclose the true answers to the persona's questions.
Protective because she tried not to give the persona negative impression about Lulu.
11. I think Lulu has run away with her boyfriend because she went missing without informing anyone.
12. Reason 1 : Because they want more freedom to do what they want.
Reason 2: Because they can no longer stand/ cope with their family problems at home.