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Understanding The Poem**1. The quill is the central element in the poem—what does it symbolise?****Answer:**

The quill symbolises the Sharade script. A script is necessary to preserve and propagate any language. Here the poet wants to make a point for Dogri, her mother tongue, which was originally written in the Sharade script but due to unknown reasons it was written in Devanagiri script. The poet personifies the reed and requests it to give a quill to which the reed agrees, saying that it is the servant of Shahni like the poet and is ready to serve her.

2. You notice a sense of urgency in the poet's request—what is the reason for this?**Answer:**

The sense of urgency shown in the poem is due to the fast depletion base of the language Dogri in its native speakers and the impact of other languages on it. The poet is worried that if the population speaking Dogri does not serve the Shahni (Dogri) then it will be difficult to save the language.

3. How has the poet brought out her emotional attachment to her mother tongue?**Answer:**

The poet has brought out her emotional attachment to her mother tongue in the form of a poem in which her mother tongue is treated as Shahni and considers herself as a maid to serve the queen. The heights of emotion are reached when the reed agrees to cut its hand for the service of Shahni in the form of a quill.

4. Personification is a figure of speech that attributes human qualities to inanimate things and abstract ideas. How has it been used in this poem?**Answer:**

The personification tool is used by the poet for her mother tongue, Dogri and its Sharade script. Dogri is personified as Shahni and its script Sharade is personified as the maid of the queen in the form of a quill. The dramatization of the reed agreeing to cut its hand to offer service to the queen animates the poem and makes the reader stand for the greater cause of serving the mother tongue.