

# FATHER TO SON



# ELIZABETH JENNINGS

**I do not understand this child  
Though we have lived together now  
In the same house for years.**

Preeti



## **Answer these questions-**

- 1. Who is the speaker here?**
- 2. Who are “we” here?**
- 3. What is the speaker talking about?**

**Or**

**What is the poet referring to?**

**I know**

**Nothing of him, so try to build Up a  
relationship from how  
He was when small.**



Preeti

## **Answer these questions-**

- 1. Who is the speaker here?**
- 2. Who is “him” here?**
- 3. Why does the speaker know nothing of “him”?**
- 4. What does the speaker remember of?**
- 5. What change has come in father’s life?**

**Yet have I killed  
The seed I spent or sown it where  
The land is his and none of mine?**

Preeti



## **Answer these questions-**

- 1. Who is the speaker here?**
- 2. Which seed does the speaker refer to?**
- 3. What had the speaker sown and where?**
- 4. Which land does the poet refer to?**
- 5. What does the speaker mean by- the land is his and not mine?**

**We speak like strangers,  
there's no sign  
Of understanding in the air.**

Preeti





## **Answer these questions-**

- 1. Who is the speaker here?**
- 2. Who are “we” here?**
- 3. Why do “we” speak like strangers?**
- 4. Which understanding the speaker talks about?**
- 5. What is the basic problem in the relation between father and son?**

**This child is built to my design  
Yet what he loves I cannot share.  
Silence surrounds us.**



Preeti

## **Answer these questions-**

- 1. Who is the speaker here?**
- 2. Who is the child here?**
- 3. What does the speaker mean by “built to my design”?**
- 4. Why does the speaker can't understand his son?**
- 5. Which is the silence mentioned here?**

**I would have  
Him prodigal, returning to  
His father's house,  
the home he knew,  
Rather than see him  
make and move  
His world.**



## **Answer these questions-**

- 1. What do you understand by “prodigal”?**
- 2. What does the speaker want his son to do?**
- 3. What is the speaker worried about?**
- 4. Who would make and move his world and how?**
- 5. Where should the son return?**

**I would forgive him too,  
Shaping from sorrow a new love.**

Preeti



## **Answer these questions-**

- 1. Who is the speaker here?**
- 2. Who is “him” here?**
- 3. Who would the speaker forgive?**
- 4. What would the speaker forgive of?**
- 5. What does the speaker wish to create?**

**Father and son, we both must live  
On the same globe and the same land,**



Preeti



## **Answer these questions-**

- 1. Who is the speaker here?**
- 2. What do you understand by “same globe and same land”?**
- 3. What is required to be on the same globe and same land?**

**He speaks: I cannot understand  
Myself, why anger grows from grief.**

Preeti



## **Answer these questions-**

- 1. Who is the speaker here?**
- 2. Who is “he” here?**
- 3. What is the speaker unable to understand?**
- 4. Which anger is mentioned and what is the grief here?**
- 5. What are the feelings of the speaker here?**

**We each put out an empty hand,  
Longing for something to forgive.**



Preeti