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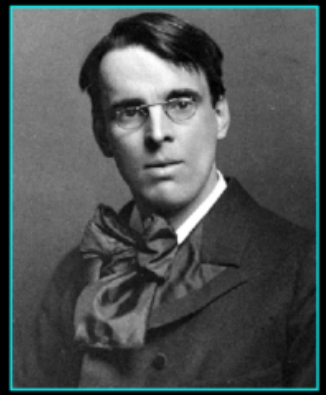
Class-X

English

First Flight

Poem - 10



William Butler Yeats

For Anne Gregory

Part - 2

Neha Rajvanshi



SUMMARY

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'For Anne Gregory' defines the perception of love by different people. There is also a spiritual and divine connect in the poem. There are two persons in the poem whose dialogue about love defines it. The poem shows the true nature of the humans who measure love through the outer beauty only. But this outer beauty is transient.

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What is important is not the outward appearance but the love or beauty that lie within us. God doesn't love a human being due to the physical beauty as humans tend to do, but love humans for themselves.

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Literary Devices Used in the Poem

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1. Rhyme Scheme : The rhyme scheme of the poem is ABCBDB.

2. Enjambment : Continuity of the same sentence in the next line.

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3. Metaphor : Comparison between two things.

Example :

Honey coloured Ramparts at your car.

Simile { like / as

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4. Alliteration : Repetition of the same consonant sound at the beginning of the words.

Example :

your — yellow

set — such

brown — Black

may — me — my self

he — had

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5. Anaphora : Repetition of the same word at the beginning of the sentence.

Example :

That

That

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6. Repetition To repeat any word phrase or sentence.

Example :

And not your yellow hair

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For Anne Gregory
[Comprehension]

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Question 1. What does the young man mean by "great honey-coloured /Ramparts at your ear?" Why does he say that young men are "thrown into despair" by them?

Answer : The young man in the poem praises the great honey coloured hair of Anne.

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Anne's hair have been called rampart, meaning a wall. It is called so because her hair acts as a wall, as they prevent young men from looking beyond those yellow hair and into her soul.

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The speaker said that young men are thrown into despair as her hair are so attractive and pretty that the young men can not look at anything else, and hopelessly fall in love with her. They love her for her yellow hair and not for her inner beauty or her nature and personality.

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Question 2. What colour is the young woman's hair? What does she say she can change it to? Why would she want to do so?

Answer : The colour of the young woman's hair is 'yellow' like the colour of honey. She can colour it brown, black or carrot.

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She means that she can change the colour of her hair as she desires. She implies that her outward beauty is changeable and not permanent or real. She wants youngmen to look into her soul and love her for her inner beauty.

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Question 3. Who is the speaker here and who is being spoken to? What does the speaker say to her?

Answer : The speaker here is the poet. He speaks Anne Gregory. They can be the two parts of a human being, body and soul. The speaker says to her that no one would love her for herself alone.

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Question 4. What message does the poem give out?

Answer : The poem gives out a clear cut message. The poet states that physical beauty may be important for young men or the human beings. But God does not think these important. He loves all the human beings. It is without their colour or physical aspects.

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Question 5. The yellow hair' is a symbol in the poem. Briefly support the statement with reference to the poem 'For Anne Gregory'.

Answer : The yellow hair possessed by Anne Gregory is a symbol of the physical beauty which tempts people to only focus on the physical aspect of things. In the poem, it distracts the men so

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much so that they love Anne Gregory for her physical beauty and not internal beauty.