

Howard the present owner of Wagner's Company to permit him to work in New York. Howard asks him to work nowhere for he is a burden on the company. He is dismissed. Biff also tells the truth that he is wanted nowhere. Now Willy is a defeated man. He takes a hard decision. Borrowing money from Charley, he deposits his insurance-instalment and commits suicide. The family gets twenty-thousand dollars. Thus, the salesman sells himself. What he fails in earning as a living man, he earns after death.

4.2. CHARACTERS IN THE PLAY

Willy Loman

He is the Hero of the play. He is a man of sixty who works in Wagner's Company. He has been working there as a travelling salesman for the last thirty four years. Mr. Wagner valued him very highly. After Mr. Wagner's death his son Howard looks after the company. He regards Willy as a burden on the company.

Linda Loman

She is Willy's wife and loves him greatly. She cares for him and feels disappointed when she finds that their sons do not respect him.

Biff Loman

He is the eldest son who was a star football player. But now he is unemployed and unsettled though he is thirty four.

Happy Loman

He is the younger son who works in a departmental store. He has his own apartment in the town. He is thirty two.

Charley

He is Willy Loman's neighbour and friend. He lends fifty dollars a week to Willy Loman. Having borrowed money from him Willy deposits his insurance instalment. Charley offers Willy to join his firm at fifty dollars a week. But Willy refuses for that.

Bernard

He is Charley's son and Biff's friend. He helps Biff in examinations in the school days. Now Bernard is a successful lawyer.

Ben

He is Willy Loman's brother. He died as a rich businessman. He appears in Willy Loman's dreams and invites him to work with him in other countries to be rich.

Howard Wagner

He is the present owner of the Wagner Company. He has no regard for Willy's past services and dismisses him from the company.

Miss Frances

She lives in Boston and has illicit relations with Willy Loman. Unfortunately Biff comes to know about it.

Miss Forsythe

She is a call-girl who attracts Happy. Happy offers her champagne.

Letta

She is a call-girl who comes with Miss Forsythe.

Stanley

He is a waiter attending Happy. He offers champagne to Forsythe.

UNIT

4

Death of Salesman

DEATH OF A SALESMAN

STRUCTURE

- Introduction
- Characters in the Play
- Actwise Critical Summary
 - Summary
 - Test Yourself

LEARNING OBJECTIVE

- After going through this unit you will be able to learn about:
- One of Arthur Miller's best selling novel "Death of a salesman"
 - Tragic setting of the drama "Death of a salesman"
 - Writing style of Arthur Miller

4.1 INTRODUCTION

Arthur Miller's 'Death of a Salesman' is a heart touching story of a salesman Willy Loman, who works hard to promote Wagner's Company and the Owner Mr. Wagner values him highly. Willy has been working for them for thirty-four years. But now the story takes a turn for Mr. Wagner is no more and his son Howard is more practical than sentimental. He has no regard for Willy Loman's service. Howard regards him as a burden to the company for being old and out dated in the market, Willy is not able to promote business according to the expectation and requirement.

Willy Loman is out of market for those who knew and respected him are either retired or dead. He visits the market but no one welcomes him. It irritates him that having covered a long distance he goes there but proves a failure. It hurts his mind and makes him a bit abnormal. He begins to suffer from a sense of inferiority.

Unfortunately his elder son Biff too is still unemployed and unsettled though Willy had great hopes from him. Biff is thirty-four. Biff tells his ' brother Happy that he has taken twenty or thirty different kinds of job since he left home before the war but all the time he had been unsuccessful. He feels that he is only wasting his life in spite of being a man of thirty-four. Willy still hopes that Biff will do wonders in business.

This false optimism dominates Willy so greatly that he begins to live in the past—the period in which he was successful and hopeful for a brighter tomorrow. Biff was not doing well in studies. His neighbour Charley's son Bernard was Biff's friend. With his help Biff used to pass his examinations. Willy didn't see any thing wrong in it. Biff was a football player and in his memory Willy remembers those days: young Bernard comes to him and reports how Biff is not serious in studies. Willy is willing to claim that Bernard is a book worm who will not be able to make much progress but Biff is a star.

These memories amuse Willy for they have no mark of failure. He talks to his dead brother Ben who asks Willy to go with him to other countries to make money. All these talks go on in his mind. They fill his mind with an absolute false sense of security. But his practice of getting lost in memory creates a practical problem. Others see him talking to himself and regard him mad. Besides, when he drives his car, he is likely to make accidents for in place of looking on the road he is lost in memory.

Everywhere he hears that he is no more fit for the job of a salesman. He asks

- C. "The Lake Isle of Innisfree" D. "A Cradle Song"
4. A druid is
A. a Christian figure B. a religious figure
C. a nationalist figure D. a feminist figure
5. What is the unifying symbol of *The Rose*?
A. a tower B. a castle C. a rose D. a nettle
6. Who was the love of Yeats' life?
A. Beckett's daughter B. Augusta O'Neill
C. Lady Gregory D. Maude Gonne
7. Where is Yeats as he imagines Innisfree?
A. Paris B. Dublin C. Innisfree D. London
8. A pike is a
A. weapon B. piece of clothing
C. smell D. type of drink

ANSWERS

1. (B) 2. (B) 3. (C) 4. (B) 5. (C) 6. (D) 7. (D) 8. (A)

Long Answer questions

1. What are all of the possible meanings of the rose in this collection? Analyze all instances of its appearance in the collection.
2. Describe the political climate in which this collection was published. Was Irish nationalism a viable political force at the time?
3. Examine "The Lake Isle of Innisfree." How does the imagery of Yeats present location contrast with the lake isle where he would like to be?
4. How does Yeats' poetic structure reflect the content of his poems? Choose two poems and analyze how their rhyme and meter structures reflect their subject matter.
5. Analyze the title of "To the Rose upon the Rood of Time." What is its religious symbolism? What does the rose stand for? How can time act as a crucifix?
6. Who influenced his poetic compositions on unrequited love the most and how?
7. Describe briefly the beloved of 1890's and how does he treat it in his poems?
8. Touch briefly on some of the major themes of Yeats poem 'Rose'.
9. How is Yeats truly frisk in spirit so distinct from his English contemporaries?
10. Write a short note on fresh nationalism and say how it influenced his poetic writing?
11. Briefly comment on Maud Gonne's influence on Yeats' works and life.
12. What reference do we find of the rural society in Yeats' poetic composition 'The Rose'?
13. Comment on the literal use of Celtic mythology in 'The Rose'.
14. What makes 'The Rose' truly Celtic, so typical of Y.B. Yeats'?
15. The poem 'The Lake Isle of Innisfree' is somewhat auto biographical in nature and spirit. Comment.
16. Trace the development of Yeats thoughts in the poem 'The Lake of Innisfree'. How it is
(a) a poem of escapism?
(b) of a poem of nature.
17. Give the summary/critical commentary of the poem 'The Sorrow of Love'.

When Heaven and Hell are met,
 Looked down on you from Heaven's door-post
 He would his deeds forget.

Brooding no more upon God's wars
 In his divine homestead,
 He would go weave out of the stars
 A chaplet for your head.

And all folk seeing him bow down,
 And white stars tell your praise,
 Would come at last to God's great town,
 Led on by gentle ways;

And God would bid His warfare cease,
 Saying all things were well;
 And softly make a rosy peace,
 A peace of Heaven with Hell.

Summary

Yeats writes that Maud Gonne's beauty is so powerful that even Michael, the archangel in charge of God's war with the Devil, would give up his battling for her. Instead, he would devote himself to praising Gonne's beauty peacefully. The example of his peacefulness would finally win the world's sinners over to God's side. God himself gives up his war with Satan, pleased with Gonne's pacifying effect.

Analysis

This short, simple poem is quite irreverently humorous. It picks up on the suggestion in the final stanza of "The Rose of the World" that Maude Gonne is the most important human being in the world and ought to be worshiped even by archangels.

The archangel Michael is one of the most famous of all heavenly denizens in Catholic traditions. He is the general in charge of God's ongoing war with Satan. The suggestion that this archangel would give up his cause to make a garland for Gonne - like a lovesick undergraduate - is ludicrous and charming. Yeats intends the poem as tongue-in-cheek hyperbole - as a gentle ribbing of Catholic dogma - even as he also intends it as a sincere tribute to the woman he loves above all else in the universe.

TEST YOURSELF

Short answer questions

A. Put a tick mark() on the correct answer

1. How many poems are in *The Rose*?

- A. 10 B. 22 C. 32 D. 45

2. When was *The Rose* published?

- A. 1892 B. 1893 C. 1916 D. 1923

3. "And a small cabin build there, of clay and wattles made" comes from

- A. "A Faery Song" B. *The Rose upon the Rood of Time*

Analysis

This poem, like many that are addressed to Maud Gonne, contrasts her inward with her outward beauty. On a simple level, the poem suggests that the beloved look within herself to the spirit of her nature (the tree), which he himself loves. Further, she should shun the mirror, which captures her external appearance. Her appearance, though beautiful now, will fade with age. Her inner tree, though, will never grow any less beautiful. On a more arcane level, the holy tree could refer either to the tree of knowledge or to the Sephirothic tree of the Kabbalah. The Sephirothic tree resonates with both good and evil. This poem would fit with the Kabbalic notion of man, which is divided between good and evil. Looking in a glass makes the tree into its reverse image, barren and threatening. Yeats was certainly familiar with the Kabbalah from his theosophic practices.

Commentary

Although the immediate context of the poem is the frustration felt by the poet at Maud Gonne's devotion to a life of politics rather than of love, the image of the trees moves the lyric onto a universal plane. In essence there is no choice to be made for 'the two trees' are one, each the reverse image of the other. The soul in this life cannot escape confinement in the body which is a prey to the demons of time and 'the ravens of unresting thought'. The form of the poem reflects its content with each verse, both of twenty lines, providing the reverse image of the other with the body's form being conceived as the mirror's reflection of the substantial soul. Each feature of the soul's beauty finds its counter part in the ugliness of the body.

Glossary

1 'The holy tree' The Sephirothic tree of the Cabbala and the tree of knowledge. In Cabbalistic tradition the Tree of Life is an apple tree growing from earth to the apex of heaven with the sun and moon for its fruit. The souls of the dead and angels perch in its branches and beats and fallen angles live in its shade. Blake suggested the opposition of the Tree of Knowledge of the Tree of Life to Yeats.

6 'dowered'	Endowed with.
15 'spiring'	Turning in a spiral movement.
16 'ignorant'	Innocent of destructive thoughts.
18 'the winged sandals dart'	The youthful soul is imagined making the light, swift movements of a dancer.
22 'The demons'	Perhaps referring to abstract thought
22 'subtle guile'	Cunning tricks
25 'fatal image'	The Tree of Knowledge not of Life.
29 'barrenness'	Inability to create life.
31 'The glass of Outer weariness'	The image of the body's fatigue and decay.
34 'The revens of unresting thought'	Intellectual activity without the soul's inspiration, bringing on death.
38 'ragged wings'	They are ragged because they plumage is ruffled by the wind and because they are old.

3.13. THE ROSE OF PEACE

IF Michael, leader of God's host

3.12. THE TWO TREES

BELOVED, gaze in thine own heart,
 The holy tree is growing there;
 From joy the holy branches start,
 And all the trembling flowers they bear.
 The changing colours of its fruit
 Have dowered the stars with merry light;
 The surety of its hidden root
 Has planted quiet in the night;
 The shaking of its leafy head
 Has given the waves their melody,
 And made my lips and music wed,
 Murmuring a wizard song for thee.
 There the Joves a circle go,
 The flaming circle of our days,
 Gyring, spiring to and fro
 In those great ignorant leafy ways;
 Remembering all that shaken hair
 And how the winged sandals dart,
 Thine eyes grow full of tender care:
 Beloved, gaze in thine own heart.

Gaze no more in the bitter glass
 The demons, with their subtle guile.
 Lift up before us when they pass,
 Or only gaze a little while;
 For there a fatal image grows
 That the stormy night receives,
 Roots half hidden under snows,
 Broken boughs and blackened leaves.
 For ill things turn to barrenness
 In the dim glass the demons hold,
 The glass of outer weariness,
 Made when God slept in times of old.
 There, through the broken branches, go
 The ravens of unresting thought;
 Flying, crying, to and fro,
 Cruel claw and hungry throat,
 Or else they stand and sniff the wind,
 And shake their ragged wings; alas!
 Thy tender eyes grow all unkind:
 Gaze no more in the bitter glass.

Summary

The poet invites his beloved to look inside her heart, where a holy tree grows. Joy shakes its leaves. The shaking of the tree has made him murmur a wizard song for you.

The poet continues, telling his beloved not to look into the mirror, or only for a little while, because a dangerous image grows there. All things turn to barrenness and mirrors hold the image of our tiredness. In those frightening places the ravens of unresting thought fly, and make one's eyes unkind.

in the opening air of nature. Therefore, he wanted to escape from the city life and take shelter in the open nature of Innisfree .

Development of thought—W.B. Yeats says that we are only wasting our energy and time only in materialistic pursuits. We want to earn and spend money and thus our mind becomes a store house of problems and tensions. Therefore, the poet is prompted to take shelter in Innisfree. an island in a lake near Sligo. At that time the poet was young but even then he did not appreciate the materialistic atmosphere of London. He wanted to escape from this busy life and to live in the bosom of nature peacefully - He decides to go to Innisfree. He would build a small hut there with the help of clay and wattles. There he will grow bean. He will also have a hive for the honey bees. He will spend the rest of his life there alone in the open space of the forest.

*"I will arise and go now, and go to Innisfree,
And a small cabin build there, of clay and wattles made;
Nine bean rows will I have there, a hive for the honey bee,
And live alone in the bee-loud glade."*

The place is full of natural beauty and peace overwhelms there. Peace comes there dropping from morning till evening. The songs of birds and crickets at the dim light of mid night create an attractive atmosphere. The sound of lake water and the retreat of the lake waves against its shore create a rhythmic sound, Thus, the poet will enjoy the beauty of nature there.

*"I will arise and go now for always night and day
I hear lake wafer lapping with low sounds by the shore;
While I stand on the roadway, or on the pavements gray,
I hear it in the deep heart's core"*

Conclusion — This poem is important because it shows the poet's great love for nature and home-sickness. It has also a noteworthy quality of escape from the city life. In the poem the thoughts and emotions of the poet are used together. It is a typical poem which reveals the quality of a developing poet. The poem is a compromise between concrete picturing and dream-like imagining, The poet has used beautiful phrases like — The cabin of 'Clay and Wattle' the 'Bean Rows and the 'Honey - Bee', 'Evening Full of the Linnet's Wings', The Lapping of Lake-water' etc. The whole poem has a romantic atmosphere and devotion to nature

3.11. THE SORROW OF LOVE

THE brawling of a sparrow in the eaves,
The brilliant moon and all the milky sky,
And all that famous harmony of leaves,
Had blotted out man's image and his cry.

A girl arose that had red mournful lips
And seemed the greatness of the world in tears,
Doomed like Odysseus and the labouring ships
And proud as Priam murdered with his peers;

Arose, and on the instant clamorous eaves,
A climbing moon upon an empty sky,
And all that lamentation of the leaves,
Could but compose man's image and his cry.

There midnight's all a glimmer, and noon a purple glow,
And evening full of the linnet's wings.

I will arise and go now, for always night and day
I hear lake water lapping with low sounds by the shore;
While I stand on the roadway, or on the pavements grey,
I hear it in the deep heart's core.

Summary

Yeats expresses his desire to build a small cabin at Innisfree, out of natural materials, and live alone. He will find peace on the lake, where it drops from the morning, and the beautiful midnight. He determines to leave immediately, because even when he stands in a road or on a city pavement, he hears the lapping of the lake waters in his heart.

Analysis

Yeats's profession of love for nature is one of his most famous and beautiful poems. It is unusual in this collection as it contains no references to the Irish nationalist movement, to Maude Gonne, or to ancient Irish mythology. Yeats first wrote the poem in London, in 1890, where he was feeling intensely homesick.

Innisfree, whose name means "heather island" in Gaelic, is an island off the coast of Ireland of intense natural beauty. It is located in County Sligo, which is where Yeats's mother's family came from, and which he identified as the part of Ireland and the world closest to his heart. In the idea of building a home there and living as a hermit, Yeats was influenced by American transcendentalists such as Thoreau. He wrote in a letter: "My father read to me some passage out of *Walden*, and I planned to live some day in a cottage on a little island called Innisfree."

Commentary

Yeats called this poem: 'my first lyric with anything in its rhythm of my own music'. It expresses his desire to escape from London into the rural landscape of his childhood in County Sligo. While he later expressed displeasure at the Biblical opening of the poem and the inversion of the second line, there is a simplicity of style emerging from the misty poeticism of the Celtic Twilight and a personal rhythm felt in a line such as:

'I hear lake water lapping with low sounds by the shore'.

Glossary

1 'wattles'	Twigs interlaced to make a wall.
4 'glade'	Space between trees.
8 'linnet'	Small song-bird.
10 'lapping'	Sound made by the ripples on the lake against the bank.
12 'core'	Innermost part.

Critical appreciation

Introduction—"The Lake /s/e of Innisfree" is a short but very important poem of W.B. Yeats. The poem appeared first in a magazine "The National Observer" and was later included in a volume of poems called "The Rose" (1893). The poet was in London when he wrote this poem in 1890. He was, like Matthew Arnold fed up with the materialistic and noisy city of London. He thought that the busy life, in getting and spending money, of London people has made them tense. They do not take breath

Under the passing stars, foam of the sky,
Lives on this lonely face.

Bow down, archangels, in your dim abode:
Before you were, or any hearts to beat,
Weary and kind one lingered by His seat;
He made the world to be a grassy road
Before her wandering feet.

Summary

Yeats contests the cliché that beauty "passes like a dream," noting that beauty has been responsible for major tragedies of human violence, including the sack of Troy and the death of Usna's children. He insinuates that Maud Gonne's beauty is capable of inspiring such destruction as well.

Yeats then suggests that while most human life passes by like a dream, Maud Gonne's "lonely face" lives on. He even insists that immortal beings - archangels - bow down before Gonne's unchanging beauty, suggesting that her being existed alongside God before the world began. The world, indeed, is a mere grassy path created for her to tread.

Analysis

Yeats wrote this poem to Maud Gonne, with whom he was deeply in love. He often compares her to Helen of Troy, arguing that her beauty, like Helen's, is capable of wrecking turmoil between nations. Indeed, as Gonne is a representative of Ireland, this comparison suggests that her beauty embodies the strife between Ireland and England, which is especially fitting given that Gonne was a fierce Irish nationalist. The reference to Usna's children in the same stanza likens her to Deirdre, an Irish heroine who was destined to bring suffering on the area of Ulster, because too many men fell in love with her.

Before its publication, George Russell objected to the final stanza of the poem (the poem had originally only had two stanzas). He thought that it lowered the quality of the poem because it added a sentimental note. This last stanza is closely tied to the circumstances under which the poem was written - after Yeats and Gonne had gone hiking together. The final lines - "He made the world to be a grassy road / Before her wandering feet" - seem to allude to this hike. Moreover, the concept of "wandering" possibly captures Yeats's perennial frustration that Gonne would not take him as a lover or a husband.

3.10. THE LAKE ISLE OF INNISFREE

I WILL arise and go now, and go to Innisfree,
And a small cabin build there, of clay and wattles made:
Nine bean-rows will I have there, a hive for the honeybee,
And live alone in the bee-loud glade.

And I shall have some peace there, for peace comes dropping slow,
Dropping from the veils of the mourning to where the cricket sings;

of Ness by another marriage. Myths look on this variously as an usurpation and as a source of great happiness for Fergus, who did not enjoy being king.

Yeats's version of the myth is somewhat consistent with both interpretations. Fergus is ambivalent about whether he did the right thing in surrendering his throne. He has not assimilated into non-royal society. He seeks the help of a druid, an ancient healing or religious figure in Celtic societies, to clarify whether he has made the right choice.

The druid's help, which comes in the form of a "slate-colored thing" which refers both to the bag of dreams and, perhaps, to the grave. With the help of this bag of dreams, Fergus "know[s] all" at the poem's end. But this knowledge does not quell his anxiety; rather, it sinks him into depression. By knowing all, he has robbed himself of the hope that comes with uncertainty. He is as sure as death, and as futureless.

Commentary

Part of the promise to tell the ancient tales of his country delivered in the previous poem, is fulfilled here through the device of a conversation between King Fergus and a Druid, indicating Yeats's growing interest in dramatic composition. The King and the Druid represent the opposite poles of active and passive, waking and dreaming, in the world and out of the world. They are another version of that tension between the mortal and the immortal described in 'o A Rose upon The Rood Of Time'. The Druid inhabits any shape he chooses but belongs to none whereas Fergus, whatever he tries to help him forget his existence, is trapped in the prison of his kingship: 'And still I feel the crown upon my head'. The druid's 'dreaming wisdom' has been achieved at the expense of participation in life. While he knows all, he has felt nothing Fergus in taking the 'little bag of dreams' exchange feeling for knowledge but the ability to see all his former incarnations has revealed the pointlessness of all human activity so that now he has 'grown nothing'. The poem reflects the poet's experience of contrary impulses: the one towards an aloof, ascetic contemplation which will bring knowledge without understanding, and the other towards the experiencing of all emotions ending in the futility of death.

Glossary

1 'lignered'	Remained.
10 'Conchubar'	Ancient King of Ulster whose war-chief was Cuchulain.
35 'quern'	A hand-mill for grinding corn.
40 'small slate-coloured thing!'	Early versions read: 'small slate-coloured bag of dreams.'

3.9. THE ROSE OF THE WORLD

WHO dreamed that beauty passes like a dream?

For these red lips, with all their mournful pride,

Mournful that no new wonder may betide,

Troy passed away in one high funeral gleam,

And Usna's children died.

We and the labouring world are passing by:

Amid men's souls, that waver and give place

Like the pale waters in their wintry race,

And still I feel the crown upon my head.

i{Druid.} What would you, Fergus?

i{Fergus.} Be no more a king
But learn the dreaming wisdom that is yours.

i{Druid.} Look on my thin grey hair and hollow cheeks
And on these hands that may not lift the sword,
This body trembling like a wind-blown reed:
No woman's loved me, no man sought my help.

i{Fergus.} A king is but a foolish labourer
Who wastes his blood to be another's dream.

i{Druid.} Take, if you must, this little bag of dreams;
Unloose the cord, and they will wrap you round.

i{Fergus.} I See my life go drifting like a river
From change to change; I have been many things --
A green drop in the surge, a gleam of light
Upon a sword, a fir-tree on a hill,
An old slave grinding at a heavy quern,
A king sitting upon a chair of gold --
And all these things were wonderful and great;
But now I have grown nothing, knowing all.
Ah! Druid, Druid, how great webs of sorrow
Lay hidden in the small slate-coloured thing!

Summary

This poem is expressed in a conversation between Fergus and a druid. The druid, at first only asks him what he would like to do.

Fergus says that he has followed the druid for the whole day as he changed shapes, and that now he finally holds a human form. He recounts how young Conchubar sat at his side, and seemed so wise that he gave his crown to him, to ease his own sorrows. He tried to become one of the people, but failed, still feeling like a king. Fergus then expresses a desire to be as wise as a druid, despite the druid's warnings that such wisdom severs one from humanity.

The druid gives him a bag of dreams to open. Fergus sees what he has been in his life, but sees it all as a web of sorrow. Knowing all, he is filled with sadness.

Analysis

This poem primarily treats the isolation of a king who is weary of his rule and his social role. King Fergus is an Irish historical figure who figures in the Tain. Fergus fell in love with Ness, and gave up his throne to Conchubar, who was the son

Glossary

Title : To The Rose Upon The Rood Of Time : In Rosicrucian symbolism a conjunction of the feminine rose and the cross forms a mystic marriage of immortal perfection.

- 3 'Cuchulian' The legendary champion of Ulster and Ireland's greatest warrior. He became for Yeats the chief representative of the heroic age which the poet hoped Ireland would recreate.
- 4 'The Druid' The Druids were priests of a pre-Christian religion with magical powers.
- 5 'Fergus' Fergus MacRóyk, King of Ulster, who sought wisdom from the Druid.
7. 'silver sandalled' The stars are pictured wearing sandals of a silver colour to dance in.
- 10 'boughs' Branches of a tree.
- 21 'chaunt' Chant
- 23 'Eire' The ancient kingdom of all Ireland; originally a name of the Tuatha de Danaan or tribes of the goddess Dana.

3.8. FERGUS AND THE DRUID

i{Fergus.} This whole day have I followed in the rocks,
And you have changed and flowed from shape to shape,
First as a raven on whose ancient wings
Scarcely a feather lingered, then you seemed
A weasel moving on from stone to stone,
And now at last you wear a human shape,
A thin grey man half lost in gathering night.

i{Druid.} What would you, king of the proud Red Branch kings?

i{Fergus.} This would I Say, most wise of living souls:
Young subtle Conchubar sat close by me
When I gave judgment, and his words were wise,
And what to me was burden without end,
To him seemed easy, So I laid the crown
Upon his head to cast away my sorrow.

i{Druid.} What would you, king of the proud Red Branch kings?

i{Fergus.} A king and proud! and that is my despair.
I feast amid my people on the hill,
And pace the woods, and drive my chariot-wheels
In the white border of the murmuring sea;

Analysis

Yeats addresses this poem to the rose, the unifying symbol of the collection. Typically the rose symbolized a nationalist vision of Ireland, feminized in the character "Roisin Dubh," which translates, "the black rose." The rose also symbolizes Maud Gonne, a female revolutionary with whom Yeats was deeply in love. Her nationalist politics, coupled with her dark beauty, resonate with the wild, beautiful symbol of Ireland.

The ancient figures whom Yeats promises to sing about include druids, who were healers and priests in Ancient Ireland. He also promises to sing of Cuchulain, the hound of Culain, who is the great hero of the Irish myth cycles.

Yeats's hesitation to allow the rose to come too near can be read a number of ways. On the one hand, it represents his wish to sing about "common things" in addition to "strange things." He insinuates that if the rose comes too near, he will only write poetry about high, abstract, beautiful things - about the strange miracles of God. Yeats wants also to address common, lowly subjects - "the weak worm" and "the field mouse." Thus he expresses a desire to poeticize all of Ireland, from the field mice to the religious truths.

Moreover, Yeats' hesitation expresses his ambivalence about Irish nationalism. One could read his hesitation as expressing anxiety that if he communes too directly with the feminized Ireland he will be infected with the desire to rebel, and with a fanaticism for the dead which usually characterized Irish nationalists before 1916. The dead language to which Yeats refers is Gaelic. If he were to come too close to the rose, he suggests, he would write poetry in this ancient language, thus rendering his poems useless in addressing a wider society.

In short, Yeats wants to do justice to "the rose" - i.e. to Ireland - without fully identifying with it, thus leaving him room to translate his homeland for a wide literary audience. He wants to capture the spirit of his land without becoming overwhelmed by that spirit. He wants to celebrate Ireland, but always with critical distance.

Commentary

This two-stanza lyric poem in heroic couplets invokes the spirit of the 'red Rose' which is to inspire Yeats in the writing of *The Rose* collection. The poem acts as an introduction for this collection, announcing the major themes of 'old Eire and the ancient ways' and occult mysticism of the 'high and lonely melody'. As in other early poems the verses are over-loaded with vague adjectives while the regularity of the end stopped lines adds to the rather ponderous movement. This effect is lessened by the alliterations and internal rhythms, anticipating later aspects of Yeats's technique. The poem reflects Yeats's reading during this period: inevitably the ethereal quality drawn from the Pre-Raphaelites but more specifically the influences of Shelley who gave to the Rose an aspect of its symbolism - Intellectual Beauty - and Blake whom Yeats was editing at this time. ('The weak worm' for instance is Blake's symbol for mortal, common things).

The strength of the poem is derived from the tension revealed by its title between immortality and mortality. The Rose is identified as 'Eternal Beauty' but it can only be perceived in such things as an actual rose which must die. Thus while the poet wishes to experience the influence of the Rose, he does not wish to be overwhelmed totally by its power and so lose contact with this world. He would rather forgo his art at the intersection of the two worlds where a man may sense the presence of the immortals without becoming blind to 'common things'. The conflict between the solitary, dreaming poet and the artist who was to fight his battles in this world is already signaled in this poem.

fighting, which he did until he died. This death became a powerful symbol for 20th century Irish nationalists.

The third cycle, called the Fenian Cycle, is so called after the hero, Finn MacCumhall. Finn MacCumhall is most famous for building an army called the Fianna. Famously, a member of the Fianna, Diarmuid, ran away with Grania, whom the aged Finn had fallen in love with. This story is the basis for Yeats' "A Faery Song." The last myth cycle, the Historical Cycle, is generally considered drier than the other cycles, and contains many accounts of kings and their politics. Yeats draws often on the middle two, less on the first cycle, and not at all on the last.

3.7. SELECTED TEXT FROM "ROSE"

2.7 TO THE ROSE UPON THE ROOD OF TIME

i{Red Rose, proud Rose, sad Rose of all my days!}
i{Come near me, while I sing the ancient ways;}
i{Cuchulain battling with the bitter tide;}
i{The Druid, grey, wood-nurtured, quiet-eyed,}
i{Who cast round Fergus dreams, and ruin untold;}
i{And thine own sadness, where of stars, grown old}
i{In dancing silver-sandalled on the sea,}
i{Sing in their high and lonely melody.}
i{Come near, that no more blinded by man's fate,}
i{I find under the boughs of love and hate,}
i{In all poor foolish things that live a day,}
i{Eternal beauty wandering on her way.}

i{Come near, come near, come near -- Ah, leave me still}
i{A little space for the rose-breath to fill!}
i{Lest I no more bear common things that crave;}
i{The weak worm hiding down in its small cave,}
i{The field-mouse running by me in the grass,}
i{And heavy mortal hopes that toil and pass;}
i{But seek alone to hear the strange things said}
i{By God to the bright hearts of those long dead,}
i{And learn to chaunt a tongue men do not know.}
i{Come near; I would, before my time to go,}
i{Sing of old Eire and the ancient ways:}
i{Red Rose, proud Rose, sad Rose of all my days.}

Summary

Introducing his collection, Yeats invites the rose close to him as he sings the ancient songs of Ireland. He will sing of druids, and of Cuchulain.

He again invites her to come near, to avoid hearing small, narrow thoughts. He does not want her too near, however, because then all he could hear would be the "bright things" said to the dead by God, and learn a language nobody knows anymore.

took together. "The Rose of Peace" imagines how heaven and hell could be reconciled by the Archangel Michael. "The Rose of Battle" discusses the seductiveness of battle to Irish youth; Yeats claims that only men who cannot and have not loved should go to battle. "A Faery Song" imagines what fairies would sing over the grave of the "old and gay" mythological heroes of Diarmuid and Grania, a pair who illicitly ran away together and incited the wrath of Finn MacCumhall.

"The Lake Isle of Innisfree" shifts us away from mythical Ireland to modern Ireland. Trapped in London, Yeats imagines creating a solitary existence in one of his favorite parts of County Sligo. "A Cradle Song" is a beautiful, short set of rhymes in which Yeats says that he will miss an infant when it grows older. "The Pity of Love" and "The Sorrow of Love" describe Yeats's unrequited love for Gonne and her power in his life. "When You are Old" is a poem to Gonne, requesting her to read his poetry as an old woman. In response to Gonne's offhand comment that she would like to become a seagull, Yeats wrote "The White Birds," imagining that they could be transformed together. "A Dream of Death" was written while Gonne was convalescing in France. Yeats imagines that if she dies in a strange land, he will be able to bring some comfort by writing her epitaph.

In the last group of poems in the collection, Yeats discusses Irish culture in general. In both "Who goes with Fergus?" - in which Yeats urges Irish youth to abandon their worldly responsibilities as the mythical king had - and "The Man who dreamed of Faeryland," Yeats diagnoses Irish society as having a lack of connection to nature. "The Dedication to a Book of Stories selected from the Irish Novelists" expresses Yeats's nostalgia for an early, pre-British time in Irish history. "The Lamentation of the Old Pensioner" is a nearly verbatim discussion by an Irish peasant of the unpleasantness of the aging process. "The Ballad of Father Gilligan" describes God's miraculous completion of a priest's work. "The Two Trees" is a mysterious injunction not to look too deeply into the dark side of human nature. In "To Some I have Talked with by the Fire," Yeats reflects on the experience of writing poetry that may be out of touch with his political surroundings. "To Ireland in the Coming Times" serves as a type of apology for the collection and its focus on Maud Gonne; in this poem Yeats places himself among a generation of older Celticists.

3.6. CELTIC MYTHOLOGY IN THE ROSE

The most difficult allusions in Yeats are not to Roman or Greek history, but rather to Celtic mythology. The Celts were a group who inhabited Ireland long before the Norman or British invasions. Druids, which Yeats mentions often, were the healers and priests of these ancient societies.

There are four great cycles that make up extant Irish mythology. The first is the Mythological Cycle, which describes the origins of Irish deities. Yeats draws especially on the second cycle, the Ulster Cycle (sometimes called the Red Branch Cycle). The main character of this group of myths is Conchubar, who succeeded the previous king of Ulster, Fergus. Conchubar ruled around the time of Christ, in conflict with Queen Medb of Connacht. The most famous story in the Ulster cycle is the Tain bo Cuailnge, or "The Cattle Raid of Cooley." Cattle were the primary resource of ancient Ireland, so a raid on an enemy's cattle can be seen as symbolic as an attack on his wealth and prosperity in general.

Cuchulainn is another major figure in the Ulster cycle. He is the most famous hero of Irish myth. At seventeen years old, Cuchulainn is deemed the only warrior fit to protect Ulster against the machinations of Queen Medb. He defeats all of her combatants in one-on-one fighting, and engages in a grueling fight against his foster brother. Cuchulainn asked to be tied upright on a post so that he could continue

- its symbols, mythology, people, nature - that might well be lost in the encroaching press of nationalism and urbanization. Yeats, in short, writes against the city, but also from the city. He cultivates an imaginative place of escape that is only necessary because of the coming modernity.

3.4. GLOSSARY OF TERMS

archangel	:	angel ranked above other angels
barter	:	to trade
blench	:	flinch
brawling	:	group fighting
brazen	:	bold
chaplet	:	garland; wreath
chaunt	:	archaic variant of chant
clamorous	:	noisy
cromlech	:	a prehistorical burial construction
dower	:	to give as part of a dowry, a gift to accompany a bride
Eire	:	Gaelic-language name for Ireland
Ineffable	:	inexpressible
Insatiable	:	cannot be satisfied
Linnet	:	type of bird
morrow	:	future day
mouldering	:	decaying; crumbling
pike	:	a weapon with a pointed head, traditionally used in Irish nationalist rebellions
plashy	:	wet; marshy
raddled	:	form of raddle; colored red by ore
raiment	:	clothing
rood	:	representation of the cross on which Jesus died
russet	:	reddish brown
slate-coloured	:	bluish gray
swineherd	:	one who raises pigs
unfurled	:	unrolled
wattle	:	poles used to make thatched roofs
wayward	:	disobedient; willful

3.5. SHORT SUMMARY

The first part of Yeats' collection draws largely upon mythic Ireland. In "The Rose upon the Rood of Time," Yeats invites the rose (his beloved) to come close, but not too close to him. "Fergus and the Druid" catalogs the exchange between an ancient king and a druid who gives him the gift of a bag of memories that only make the king sadder. "Cuchulain's Fight with the Sea" describes Cuchulain's mad battle with the ocean after he unknowingly kills his own son. "The Rose of the World" puts Yeats's beloved, Maude Gonne, into a classical context and recalls a hike that the two

Irish Nationalism

Nationalism in Ireland in the 1890s was in a complicated stage. Many die-hard Fenians (Republicans), including Maud Gonne, were more than willing to take arms against the British to gain their independence. Another group, including Yeats, took the more cautious parliamentary approach. This political party, called the Home Rule Party, was led by John Redmund and held that Ireland could gain independence through legal means. Because this collection focuses so much on Maud Gonne, Yeats inevitably touches upon his political differences with his beloved. These differences, needless to say, affected their relationship negatively. Yeats feared that Gonne was more repulsed by his moderate politics than by his person.

Thus, in some poems, such as "To Ireland in the Coming Times," Yeats seems to be willfully disassociating himself from the complex political fabric of his own era, instead hearkening to a simpler politics of ancient kings. Undoubtedly Yeats was drawn to these ancient mythic times anyway, but his interest takes on a sadness in the context of his relationship with the politics of his own day (and thus of his relationship with Gonne). Nationalist politics exist negatively in these poems, as the subject that Yeats doesn't want to address.

Maud Gonne

At the time that Yeats published this collection, Maud Gonne was the major focus of his life. He was deeply in love with her, and although Gonne did not return his romantic sentiments, she remained close friends with him. He saw her often enough to become obsessed with her. Most of the poems in the collection were written for or about Gonne.

The central image of the rose is a symbol of Gonne as well as Ireland. Gonne, an extreme nationalist, represents the Irish spirit in her politics as well as her beauty. Thus Gonne, Ireland and the image of the rose exist interchangeably in Yeats' poetic imagination. His beloved, with her violent desire to free her country from British rule, captures the ferocity of nationalistic pride with spiritual and physical beauty. She is the thorny rose, and the thorny rose is Ireland. Indeed, one of Yeats' fears is that he himself is not violent enough politically or personally to attract Gonne's attentions, a fear that seemed to be justified by her marriage to a military man.

Urbanization

Ireland is, historically, an agrarian land. For centuries it was a nation of farmers - often working under unfair conditions for their British conquerors. Thus, though Ireland's agrarian identity was complicated, it was central. A rapport with the change of seasons and with the harvest cycle was central to Irish life.

At the time of the composition of *The Rose*, however, urbanization had begun to encroach upon Ireland. Dublin was a major metropolitan area, for instance, in the heart of a traditionally rural society. This complex relationship between urban and rural existence is essential to Yeats' perspective in *The Rose*. Though he lived much of his life in London and Dublin, Yeats viewed cities as inherently negative and poisonous. Thus poems like "The Lake Isle of Innisfree," which romanticize the Irish agrarian landscape with breathless awe, largely express the poet's discomfort with his urban environment.

It is worth asking, then, whether Yeats' natural landscapes of Ireland are realistic or purely imaginative. They seem to exist largely in the poet's remembrance and longings - to be places of escape from a modernity that Yeats finds discomfiting. Yeats invites the conclusion that, in fact, it doesn't matter whether his Ireland is the *real* Ireland: it is, nevertheless, a place of meaning for the Irish.

Thus Yeats expresses a desire to capture in imaginative verse the spirit of Ireland

3.3. MAJOR THEMES

Age and Death

Though a young poet at the time of the composition of *The Rose*, Yeats is quite preoccupied with themes of aging and mortality. Imagining his old age served as an escape for the young Yeats, who found himself unsuccessful in love and imagined that later in life he would either have won his beloved or his beloved would have come to regret her rejection of him. "In Old Age" is particularly marked by the image of an older Maud Gonne (the woman with whom Yeats was in love) becoming wiser in old age.

Yeats also had an anxiety about death which was unusual in someone so young. He contemplated death less in terms of himself than in terms of his loved ones. When Maud Gonne traveled to France as a convalescent, a worried Yeats wrote "A Dream of Death." This meditation on Gonne's possible death is less of a nightmare than a dream come true, as Yeats envisions himself being useful to her in death as he could not be in life. Yeats, therefore, views both aging and death as more or less positive forces.

Images of Irish Nature

It is not surprising that a collection entitled *The Rose* draws heavily upon nature imagery. Yeats draws upon natural imagery both in terms of the symbols he employs and in the settings he summons. Indeed, natural imagery features in all of Yeats's poetry, even that which contains political themes.

Yeats's landscape descriptions are often obviously Irish, even if they do not include a specific place name. He highlights the rolling greenness and shifting light that characterize the Irish landscape. Additionally, some of his poems take a more specific approach to the Irish landscape. Many of them, including "The Lake Isle of Innisfree," treat a particular Irish place. Nearly all of these places are in County Sligo, Yeats' mother's ancestral home and the place on earth that he felt most connected to. Yeats was eventually buried in Sligo.

Yeats also references the natural landscapes of Irish legend and myth. Imaginary natural worlds like Faeryland or Tír na nÓg, where people never grow old, provide a compliment to both the general and specific treatments of Irish nature. In all his poems, Yeats carefully chooses a natural backdrop - real or imagined - that captures his home country.

Irish Mythology

The Rose is rife with mythological references, from King Fergus to Conchubar to Diarmuid. Indeed, such mythic Irish figures populate nearly every poem in the collection. Mythology operates as a theme in this collection in a number of ways. First and foremost it separates Yeats' poetry from British writing. British writers drew on Roman and Greek mythology - the mythology, in fact, of other (albeit ancient) imperialists. In choosing Irish mythology as his source of allusions and subjects, Yeats creates a poetry distinct from that of Ireland's long-time oppressors. This compliments Yeats' desire to cultivate a poetic language suitable to Ireland alone.

Moreover, Yeats' use of Irish mythological subjects allows him to avoid the political climate of his own day. Yeats, a moderate compared to his beloved Maud Gonne, found his political beliefs to be a burden in his pursuit of love. In treating legendary figures, Yeats avoids the problem of referencing the complicated political environment that so tormented him.

Yeats' collection is at once beautiful, sensual and thorny. Taken as a whole, these poems comprise the young Yeats' homage to his homeland.

The Rose

3.2. CHARACTER LIST

Druid

A druid held the class of priest in ancient Celtic societies. He or she was polytheistic and believed that there are spiritual elements in natural places like rivers and trees.

Fergus

Fergus was a king in many of the ancient mythological cycles of the Irish. He was the lover of Queen Mebh, a protagonist in the Tain Bo Cuailange (Cattle Raid of Cooley), whose name means "fertility" in Gaelic. High Kings of Ireland in the 3rd and 4th centuries AD were named after him.

Eire

Gaelic name for Ireland; often personified by Yeats.

Emer

Cuchulain's wife in the ancient myth cycles. Yeats wrote a play about her called *The Only Jealousy of Emer* (1922).

Cuchulain

The greatest hero of the Irish myths. He defeated Queen Mebh in the Tain Bo Cuailange, and came to an agreement with Fergus where they would yield to one another on the battlefield. He was married to Emer.

Conchubar

King of Ulster (the northeastern segment of Ireland and part of modern day Northern Ireland) in the ancient myth cycles. Cuchulain's uncle, Conchubar forcibly married the heroine Deirdre, who committed suicide.

Usna

The name of the father of the men who helped Deirdre escape Ireland before Conchubar found her and forced her to marry him.

Diarmuid

An Irish warrior from the myth cycles who served in Cuchulain's army, the Fianna.

Grania

The intended bride of Finn Maccool, who ran away with Diarmuid.

Odysseus

Protagonist of Homer's *Odyssey*.

Priam

King of Troy during the Trojan War, who was brutally murdered by Achilles's son.

Mother Mary

Jesus's mother, the Virgin Mary.

Father Gilligan

Anonymous father.

UNIT

3

THE ROSE

STRUCTURE

- Introduction
- Character List
- Major Themes
- Glossary of Terms
- Short Summary
- Selected Text from "ROSE"
- Fergus and The Druid
- The Rose of the World
- The Lake Isle of Innisfree
- The sorrow of Love
- The Two Trees
- The Rose of Peace
- Test Yourself

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

After going through this unit you will be able to learn about:

- "Rose" a collection of poems by W.B. Yeats, its characters, themes, etc.
- Selected poems from "The Rose" their summary and analysis along with glossary

3.1. INTRODUCTION

The Rose is a collection of twenty-two poems that W.B. Yeats published in 1893. It was only his second lyrical collection, but contains many of his famous mythological poems. At this point in his life, Yeats was steeped deeply into the world of ancient Ireland, characterized in popular imagination as the "isle of saints and scholars." He evoked his legendary home country and its fantastical creatures with a poetic vocabulary at once lush and precise.

Yeats wrote these poems under the influence of Maude Gonne, his great unrequited love. Though Gonne resisted his wooing at the time of *The Rose*, her rejection of him was not yet definitive. Thus the poems in this collection lack the pensive sadness that typifies his later style, instead tending toward whimsy and wonder at the beauty of his beloved. Yeats' approach to Ireland in *The Rose* likewise reflects the influence of Gonne, whose dark beauty came to embody Ireland in his imagination; though Gonne was a fierce nationalist, however, Yeats treats his home country with a more mythic than nationalistic style. Ireland in the 1890s was a political place, but few at this time suspected the impending nationalist fervor that would sweep through Ireland in the twentieth century. Yeats was a politically involved individual at the time of composition of *The Rose* – for instance, he was a member of the Gaelic League – but he was not a radical by any means.

Thus his celebration of Ireland, as recorded in this collection, is largely symbolic and apolitical. The unifying symbol of this collection of poetry is found in its title: *The Rose*. Yeats uses the rose to mean a variety of things, but it always stands for untamed Irish beauty in one way or another. Ireland is called "Roisin Dubh" in Irish mythology, which translates from the Irish language as "the dark rose." His transfiguration of the rich natural and narrative history of his homeland into poetry is the unifying force behind the poems in the collection. Like its namesake flower,

again to enjoy love. Hence, there is no rejection of life. There is grief and impatience resulting from the painful realities that can not be young to enjoy the pleasures of life.

Clash of opposites—Miss. A.G. Stock remarks that **Yeats poetry is a battle ground for the clash of opposites**. In his poetry we find a clash between the human and the non-human, the personal and impersonal, the spiritual and the physical etc. In *"A Bronze Head"* the human and the superman are put side by side. **Maud Gonne** is human but the look of terror in her eyes shows that she was the instrument of destiny looking upon the foul world with stern eyes.

Use of humour—Yeats' later poetry has element of humour. This humour seems to be a blend of whimsicalism and sadism. He had already shown signs of it in the hermits and beggars of the volume of poems called **'Responsibilities'**. Sometimes it is directed against his habitual enemies—

John Bull has stood for Parliament,

A dog must have his day etc. etc.

Sometimes humour comes out in cynical epigram. At other times it bubbles with curiousness.

Conclusion—Yeats is certainly a great poet because we find the entire bulk of his work of a high quality. His early poems are escapist and have strong Pre-Raphaelite touch. But his later poems are most realistic and touch the facts of life. He became more and more perfect with the passage of time. He is a conscious artist who polished and re-polished his verses and tried to say every thing beautifully, clearly and musically. He selects his words with reference to their sense and sound.

TEST YOURSELF

Short answer questions

A. Put a tick mark() on the correct answer

1. Where was Yeats born?
A. London B. Sligo C. Paris D. Dublin
2. What was his father's profession?
A. poet B. sales associate C. writer D. painter
3. Where did Yeats live as a young adolescent?
A. London B. Sligo C. Paris D. Dublin
4. What language did Yeats originally write in?
A. English B. Irish C. Gaelic D. French
5. What form do most of Yeats's poems take?
A. epic B. limerick C. sonnet D. lyric
6. What form did Yeats's first important poem take?
A. epic B. limerick C. sonnet D. lyrical

ANSWERS

1. (D) 2. (D) 3. (A) 4. (A) 5. (D) 6. (A)

Long Answer questions

1. Why is Yeats considered a symbolist poet. What are the major symbols of his poetry?
2. Write a short note on life and works of W.B. Yeats
3. Throw some light on the writing style of W.B. Yeats.
4. Give a critical appreciation of Yeats writing style.
5. Write a short note on Yeats as a symbolist with a special mention to the poem 'Rose'.
6. Discuss, both close reference to the comments of John Frazer, Yeats as one of the major poets of English Literature of his times.

A Great Poet—He is called a great poet of the early 20th century. Edith Sitwell praises him highly. He writes, "The earliest of his poems gave new life to the language and today they spring into our consciousness as their wonder and splendour is greater, since they have grown from a deeper wisdom, a more universal experiment." We can divide his poems in two parts. His early poems are mostly romantic. But his continuous poetic development made him a realistic one. His art and genius developed. The evolution is one of the chief qualities of his poetry. His later poems are written in the Pre-Raphaelite tradition. It is a world of electric twilight, of vague lights. The imagery, he uses, is vague and subdued in colour. His style is easy and slow-moving. It is marked with metaphors. His later poems are full of realism. They are described in a realistic way. They have a variety of subjects. He writes on ancient legend, mythology folklore, politics, history, love and other subjects. He writes on every possible sphere of life with perfection and mastery. His period of development as a poet is the longest. The period of his poetic activity extended over fifty years and during this period he was constantly becoming maturing and growing different from what he was in the beginning.

Use of symbol—W.B. Yeats is a great symbolic poet. Arthur Symonds calls Yeats, "the chief representative of the symbolist movement in English Literature." He is a symbolist poet long before he has heard of the French. His symbolism is based upon the poetry of Blake, Shelley and Rossetti. His early poems are full of simple and traditional elements. His poem "Lake Isle of Innisfree" symbolises a Utopia, a country of the mind where one can live in peace away 'from the fever and fret of the world.'

*I will arise and go now, and go to Innisfree,
And a small cabin build there, of clay and wattles made;
Nine bean rows will I have there, a hive for the honey bee,
And live alone in the bee-load glade.*

He is a symbolist from the beginning to the very end of his career. He has used a number of symbols in his poems like—Rose, Lily, Swan Tower, Winding Stair etc.

The Mythical Note—Cleanth Brooks calls him a 'great myth-maker'. In his poem "The Magi" he uses the old Biblical story. In "No Second Troy" he uses the old Helen-myth. In the poem "The Second Coming" the poet takes the myth of Bible: He is sure to see the widespread murder and bloodshed in Ireland, it followed the Easter rebellion. There were also the Irish civil war and the Great war.

*"Turning end turning in the widening gyre
The falcon can not hear the falconer;
Things fall apart; the centre cannot hold;
Mere anarchy is loosed upon the world,
The blood-dimmed tide is loosed, and every where
The ceremony of innocence is drowned;
The best lack all conviction, while the worst
Are full of passionate intensity".*

Lyrical quality—The striking quality of Yeats' poetry is its lyricism. His early poetry reminds us of the pure lyrics which have grace, charm and melody of the Elizabethan poets. His lyrics have personal emotions and feelings. He is a great meterist. He experimented with many stanzas and verse form. He rejected the verse liberally used by so many modern poets. He is like Donne in order to command over stanza structures.

Melancholic Note—The tone of Yeats's poetry is full of despair and grief. Some critics like I.A. Richards finds a total rejection of life in his poetry. But some critics feel that instead of life disdained we should rage up to life. He wants to be young

sense of suffering, a nostalgia for something unattainable. Generally their suggested meaning is stated explicitly by the poet himself.

Tower : Symbols—Like Rose symbols, he mostly used the symbols of tower, lily, moon, sun, etc. All his symbols occur in his early poems. They are occult in character. Tower is one of the richest among the ambiguous symbols of Yeats. It is a symbol of retreat, of intellectual or spiritual asceticism.

Sailing to Byzantium—Life is an endless journey to realize innerself. Man has to pass his childhood, youth and old age. His first journey starts from childhood, the second is called youth which is full of romantic and sensual activities while the old age is the time for spiritual perception, young men and women enjoy their sexual union in a romantic way. Even young girl sings sweet songs to attract opposite sexes. Even rivers have a number of fishes and other water animals which copulate each other. But an old man is unable to copulate and he appears like a tattered coat upon a stick. It is a time for his worship. His soul should study the magnificence of his own nature. He should purify himself standing in the fire of penance. He may return to his soul just as a hawk returns to its starting point on earth, flying back along a circular course. Thus he purges his soul by destroying the physical desires. Once he himself realises and raises his soul out of the bondage of worldly desires, he gets Moksha which means he will never take birth again. He will set his soul upon a golden bough of true yugic Samadhi. And thus he will absolutely be free from body, mind and nature, and he will sit upon the highest bough of the highest tree of the golden city of Byzantium.

The Second Coming — The Second Coming is a fine symbolical poem of Yeats. It was written after the Easter rebellion. The poet had witnessed many painful and surprising things of the Irish Civil war and the Great War. All these painful things filled the poet with inner darkness and sadness. He believed in the process of disintegration of the old and birth of the new. The process of history rotates round destruction and creation. No civilisation can continue for ever. History repeats itself. Destruction of the old is inevitable for the birth of the new. The poet finds anarchy and indiscipline in the whole world. The doom of the old means the birth of the new. He finds violence and bloodshed all round. The poet has used the metaphor of the falcon which moves round a fixed centre. The falconer has lost control over the falcon. It does not listen to his call. Even the centre can not control the movement. The result is that mere anarchy is let loose upon the world. There is violence and bloodshed everywhere. The whole civilization has lost its order. Therefore, the poet invokes the spirit of Lord Christ that he should come again to revive the present civilization.

The Lake Isle of Innisfree — It is an important symbolic poem of Yeats, It compromises between concrete picturing and dream-like imagining. The poem is full of natural description and reminds the busy city people to come in touch with nature for a calm and peaceful life.

Conclusion — Yeats is a great symbolist. His symbols are very natural and simple. They are not confused and uncertain. A number of his poems have certain key-symbols. He is a symbolist from the beginning of his career to the very end. With the maturity of his powers, his symbols became rich and complex. He has mostly used the natural symbols like Rose, Lily, etc.

2.4. CRITICAL NOTE ON W.B. YEATS AS A POET

W.B. Yeats is a great poet of the 20th century. He was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature. He is called the finest British poet of his time. John Frazer claims for Yeats 'the position of a major English poet'. He puts Yeats in performance and greatness with Donne, Milton and Wordsworth. He calls Yeats much superior to the Victorian poets like Browning, Tennyson and Arnold. Like Coleridge he is also at heart a dreamer, a visionary who is fascinated by folklore, bullockry and the superstitions of the Irish peasantry. He believes in fairies and demons; naturally he feels strange in a world of scientific fact and machinery. He trusts imagination because reason and logic divide people. Thus he is a romantic poet.

common speech, and in works such as *Responsibilities, and Other Poems, The Wild Swans at Coole, and Michael Robartes and the Dancer*, his verses began to take on the rhetorical, occasionally haughty tone that readers today identify as characteristically Yeatsian. Critics agree that Yeats's poetic technique was impeccable. It was this mastery of technique that enabled him to perfect the subtle, forceful, and highly unusual poetic meter that he used to create the effect of a chant or an incantation in such poems as "The Tower." His remarkable creative development in his final years illustrates a lifelong determination to remake himself into his ideal image of the poet: a sacerdotal figure who assumes the role of mediator between the conflicting forces of the objective and subjective worlds.

2.3. YEATS AS A SYMBOLIST POET

Symbolism means the indirect expression of a feeling, a fact, or an idea, by means of real objects. Symbols are essentially words which are not merely connotative, but also evocative, and emotive. They also evoke before the mind's eye a number of associations connected with them. This type of knowledge is regarded as rediscovery of the specific powers of analogy and symbol. They may be divided into two kinds — (i) Traditional symbols and (ii) Personal symbols. Both the symbols are very helpful to a writer to express much more than by the use of ordinary words.

Yeats as a Symbolist — French literature is the origin of symbolist movement. But some critics say that it was a general European movement of which the French have been leaders. But Yeats has been called the chief representative of the symbolist movement in English literature. It would not be strictly true to regard him as heir to the French. His knowledge of the French language was so meagre that he could not have read those difficult French poems to which, in the opinion of some critics, he was indebted. His symbolism was based upon the poetry of Blake, Shelley and Rossetti, who are the leading poets of English Literature. He was a perfect symbolist and according to W.X. Tyndall 'Yeats was a symbolist from the beginning of his career to the end'. His early symbolism was quite simple, traditional and elementary. But in indirect way he was also influenced by some French writers also. We also find some influence of his native Irish literature in his poetry. Thus, W.B. Yeats was a symbolist from the beginning and remained a symbolist till the end.

Symbolism in his works—Yeats was not the scholar of French literature. As Keats did not know Greek-language Keats studied Greek literature through English translations, in the same way Yeats also came to know about French literature only through the translations done by Symons. Symons translated the works of Mallarme, Villiers and other French symbolists into English. But Yeats soon grew out of the French influence and his use of symbols differs from that of French symbolists in many ways. He stayed outside the French movement and snatched some methods of his movement from outside. His symbols are both poetic and magical. They are deeply rooted in Irish mythology and legend which give a precision, a definiteness and clarity to his symbolic writing. These qualities are absent in French symbolism.

Other qualities of his symbols—Yeats is a master of using fine symbols. His symbols are not vague and blurred but have definite visual forms. These are less obscure and less complex than those of French writers. Even, he did not imitate the works of Mallarme, who was the leader of the French symbolist movement. His symbols are all pervasive in his poems. There are certain key symbols round which a number of poems are organised and each succeeding poem throws light on the previous poems and illuminates their sense. Yeats regards the symbol a body of science which takes us beyond the sense. They give voice to dumb things, bodies to bodiless things. He uses mostly personal symbols, They explain the finite reality of life, but he also does not hesitate to use traditional symbols if the need arises.

Rose : Symbols—In the Rose group of poems, the rose is a traditional symbol of love and beauty. Yeats uses it for absolute beauty, for absolute peace and evokes a

nationalist play personifying Ireland as a woman, was performed on the opening night.

In 1917, Yeats bought Thoor Ballylee, a Norman stone tower in County Sligo, near Coole Park. Characteristically, the poet chose to live inside his symbol. He spent the following summer with Maude Gonne's family, and proposed to her daughter, Iseult, but was turned down. The same year, he married Georgie Hyde-Lee. His wife shared his interest in the occult and claimed a gift of "automatic writing," in which her hand was directed by a divine force. Together, the two produced *The Vision*, a notebook of spiritual thoughts, as well as writing poetry and plays and continuing to serve on the artistic board of the Abbey Theatre, Yeats became a member of the Seanad, the Irish senate, from 1922-25. He served on the committees that helped to create coinage for the new state. He left in disgust when the governmental organization was split in the aftermath of the Irish Civil War (1923-24).

As Yeats grew older, he developed a friendship with Ezra Pound, a poet who drew him away from his mystical, lyrical style into something drier and sparer. Arguably his most famous collection, *The Tower* (1928) contains political poems as well as a more modernist return to mythological topics like "Leda and the Swan." Yeats became increasingly political in his old age, publishing a collection called *Michael Robartes and the Dancer* in 1921, which includes his famous "Easter, 1916" in which he describes the birth of modern Irish nationalism with the famous phrase, "a terrible beauty is born." *The Winding Stair and Other Poems* (1933) contains poems that focus on Yeats' own estate at Coole Park—the winding stair being the stair at Thoor Ballylee. His later poems, especially "Under Ben Bulbin," express his desire to be buried there. After his death, he was buried in Sligo, and he rests under the epitaph "Cast a cold eye on life, on death; horsemen, pass by!"

2.2. YEATS MAJOR WORKS

Yeats's poetry evolved over five decades from the vague imagery and uncertain rhythms of *The Wanderings of Oisín, and Other Poems*, his first important work, to the forceful, incantatory verse of the *Last Poems*. Throughout his career, Yeats found occult research a rich source of images for his poetry, and traces of his esoteric interests appear everywhere in his poems. "The Rose upon the Road of Time," for example, takes its central symbol from Rosicrucianism, and "All Souls' Night" describes a scrying, or divination, ceremony. In his earliest poetic works, such as *Mosada*, Yeats took his symbols from Greek mythology; however, after meeting John O'Leary, he turned instead to Irish mythology as a source for his images. The long narrative poem, "The Wanderings of Oisín," was the first he based on the legend of an Irish hero. In spite of its self-consciously poetic language and immature imitations of Pre-Raphaelite poetic technique, the poem's theme—the disagreement between Oisín and St. Patrick—makes it important to an understanding of the later Yeats. The sense of conflict between vision and corporeal realities, as symbolized by the saint and the hero, is the essential dichotomy in Yeats's poetry. Additionally, Yeats recognized that only through imagination could the raw materials of life be transformed into something enduring. For Yeats, the role of the artist was the same as that of the alchemist: he must effect a transformation that obscures the distinction between form and content, between the "dancer and the dance." This theme is most effectively expressed in the later poems "Sailing to Byzantium" and "Byzantium." As Yeats grew older and more sure of his themes, his approach to the techniques of poetry changed. Recognizing that faerie songs were less suited to the tragic themes that preoccupied him than were more realistic narratives, he began, with the poems of *In the Seven Woods*, to write verses describing actual events in his personal life or in the history of Ireland. One of his most famous lyrics, "Easter 1916," about a rebel uprising that resulted in the martyrdom of all who participated, belongs to this later group. In his maturity, Yeats wrote little narrative poetry. Instead he adopted the dramatic lyric as his most characteristic form of expression. Influenced by Ezra Pound, he simplified his diction and modified his syntax to reflect more closely the constructions of

UNIT

2

WILLIAM BUTLER YEATS : AN INTRODUCTION

STRUCTURE

- Life of W.B. Yeats
- Yeats Major Works
- Yeats as a Symbolic Poet
- Critical Note on W. B. Yeats as a Poet
 - Test Yourself

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- After going through this unit you will be able to learn about:
- Life and works of W.B. Yeats
 - Yeats as symbolist poet.
 - Critical analysis of Yeats writing style and poetry

2.1. LIFE OF W.B. YEATS

William Butler Yeats was born in County Dublin on June 13, 1865. Due to the demands of his father's career as an artist, he moved with his family to London at a young age, but he spent summers in County Sligo, in Western Ireland. When Yeats was fifteen, his family moved back to Dublin, where he attended the Metropolitan School of Art.

Yeats' first work was published in the Dublin University Review in 1885. What is generally considered to be his first mature work, *The Wanderings of Oisín and Other Works* came out in 1893. After *The Wanderings of Oisín*, which was based on an ancient Irish saga, Yeats never attempted another long poem and confined himself to the lyric form.

Yeats grew interested in the occult at an early age. He visited a famous theosophist, Madame Blavatsky, and joined a Theosophy Society. Theosophy holds that all beliefs make up a larger system of religions, and all hold some measure of the truth. Yeats attended many séances, beginning in 1886.

In 1889, Yeats met the love of his life, an Irish revolutionary named Maude Gonne (1866-1953). Unfortunately, Maude did not return his ardor, and after refusing his marriage proposals three times, she married Major John MacBride in 1903. Collections of poetry from this time include *The Rose* (1893) and *The Wind Among the Reeds* (1899).

Yeats' early poetry focuses on ancient Irish epics as well as the contemporary nationalist movement that was gaining force in Ireland. In the Ireland of 1880s and 1890s, the two were sometimes inseparable. Many members of the Gaelic League, formed to prevent the disappearance of the Irish language and rehabilitate its classics, were also members of the Irish Republican Brotherhood, a precursor organization to the Irish Republican Army (IRA).

Yeats was fascinated by folktales, and, under the tutelage of George Russell and Thomas Hyde, he published *Fairy and Folktales of the Irish Peasantry* in 1888. In 1897, Yeats met Lady Gregory, another member of what was termed the Gaelic Revival, and she convinced him to start writing drama with Irish subject matter. Together with George Moore and Edward Martyn, the two set up The Abbey Theatre, Ireland's national theatre, in Dublin in 1904. Yeats's *Cathleen ni Houlihan*, a

(ii) Who is here so vile that will not love his country?

Note — In the first example the poet asks the readers if 'animated bust' or 'storied urn' is capable of bringing the dead person back to life. Everyone knows that nothing is so powerful that can revive the dead. In the second example also, nobody can say that he is vile enough not to love his country. Thus the questions that need no answer are called Rhetoric Questions.

TEST YOURSELF

1. What are the various forms of poetry you have studied in this chapter?
2. Why are figures of speech important? What are they used for?
3. Differentiate between a metaphor and simile by giving an example of both?
4. What do you mean by an epic? What type of poem is it?
5. Describe in brief the form of Shakespearean sonnets?
6. What are the seven characteristics of lyric poetry?
7. What is an Ode?
8. What is the difference between an Ode and a Lyric.
9. What is a Sonnet?
10. Who were the greatest sonnet writer of England?
11. What is the other name for petrarchan sonnets?
12. Why is Petrarchan sonnet so called?
13. Who were the pioneer of Italian form of Sonnet?
14. How is a Sonnet so different from other forms of poetry?
15. What's an Elgy and how is it so different from an Ode, a lyric or a Sonnet?
16. Define an Elegy?
17. Name some of the famous elegy writers in English literature and say what one change has come over in the composition of an elegy?
18. What is a narrative poetry?
19. Why is narrative poetry objective in nature?
20. What's a ballad? Describe some of the main features of a ballad.
21. What's in Epic and how does it differ from a ballad?
22. Which is the best and most popular example of a ballad in English Literature?
23. What's Dramatic Poetry?
24. What is the purpose/objective of an allegory?
25. Give the importance of the use of figure of speech in English Literature?
26. Define the following, giving examples of each : Metaphor, An Apostrophe, Oxymoron, Alliteration, Metonymy.

- (ii) Belinda smiled, and all the world was gay.

Note—An exaggeration is made in the weeping of 'she' that she filled the ocean with tears, and in another example too, it is beyond the reality that the world becomes happy on the smiling of a single woman 'Belinda'.

6. Oxymoron—In this figure of speech two opposite ideas are put together, it means two opposite qualities are used together in a single sentence. For example—

- (i) Sohan is regularly irregular.
- (ii) The clowns of Shakespeare are wise fools.

Note—In both the above examples, the last two words are contradictory in meaning to each other but they are significant and meaningful.

7. Onomatopoeia—It is a figure of speech in which a word is made similar to the sound. For example—

- (i) The bird chirps.
- (ii) The owl shrieks.
- (ii) The dove coos.
- (iv) The snake hisses.

Note—The words 'chirp', 'shriek', 'coo' and 'hiss' are similar in sound to their respective creatures.

8. Alliteration—In Alliteration the same letter is repeated at the beginning of two or more than two words in a single line.

- (i) Is language of lawyers a clever lie?
- (ii) That shades the steep and sings at every blast.

Note — In both the above examples the letters 'U' and 'S' have been repeated respectively.

9. Metonymy— In Metonymy generally a similar name is used in the name of another object. In other words it is a transfer of name. For example —

- (i) He accepted the crown.
- (ii) He wears black-coat.
- (iii) Pen is mightier than sword.

Note — In the above examples 'crown' is the substitute of a 'king', 'black-coat' of a 'lawyer', 'Pen' of a 'writer' and 'sword' of a 'soldier'.

10. Transferred Epithet— In this figure of speech an adjective is transferred from the proper person or thing to another person or thing which is closely associated with it. For example —

- (i) The ploughman homeward plods his weary way.
- (ii) The prisoner passed his hungry days and sleepless nights.

Note — In the first example 'way' has been depicted as 'weary' while it is the adjective of 'ploughman' which has been transferred to the 'way'. In the second example also 'days' have been told as 'hungry' and the 'nights' as 'sleepless' while both these adjectives are related to the prisoner.

11. Rhetorical Question : Interrogation — In this figure of speech the poet asks a question from his readers not to seek the answer, but to make the language emphatic. In fact such questions are answers in themselves. For example —

- (i) Can storied urn or animated bust.

Back to its mansion call the fleeting breath?

makes use of supernatural elements too. The purpose of an Allegory is to preach moral or spiritual truth for readers. Spenser's *'Faerie Queene'* and Bunyan's *'Pilgrim's Progress'* are the best examples of Allegory.

6. METRICAL ROMANCE—

Metrical Romances are the stories and tales in verse. These tales are the narration of kinghly advances, enchantment, fighting and love etc. Tennyson's *'Rodylls of the King'* Scott's *'Lay of the Last Minister'*. Spenser's *'Faerie Queene'* are the best examples of Metrical Romances'

1.4 FIGURES OF SPEECH

A figure of speech is a deviation from the ordinary use of words to create the charm, force and pleasure in language. It is an ornament of the language. Words are used in such a figurative way that they leave an impression of pleasure upon the readers.

Main figures of speech are as follows—

1. **Simile**—A Simile is a figure of speech in which a comparison is made between two different objects in respect of some common quality. The words 'so', 'as', 'like' and 'such' are used frequently to satisfy this purpose. For example—

(i) He is as brave as a lion.

(ii) He is brave like a lion.

Note — In both the above examples 'he' has been compared with a lion in bravery.

2. **Metaphor**— A Metaphor is an implied Simile. It is not an 'open' or 'directly expressed comparison'. For example —

(i) He is a lion.

(ii) He is the star of the day.

Note : In the first example 'he' has been presented as a lion. There is no word of comparison used for this purpose. In the second example 'he' has been admitted as shining as the star in the heaven.

3. **Personification**— It is a figure of speech in which a lifeless object bears a human action or attribute. For example

(i) Experience is the best teacher.

(ii) The stars were shivering in cold night.

Note — Teaching' is the merit of human beings only. 'Experience' is abstract, but it has been used as a human being. In the second example also lifeless object like 'star' has been said to be 'shivering' while the 'stars' do not shiver, as it is the human action.

4. **Apostrophe**— In this figure of speech lifeless objects, dead persons or abstract qualities are addressed as human beings. For example

(i) Frailty, thy name is woman!

(ii) O' father! Were you alive today.

Note — In the first example a sin 'frailty' has been addressed as a woman, and in the second example 'dead father' has been addressed as if he were alive today.

5. **Hyperbole**— It is a figure of speech in which overstatement or exaggeration is made to make the statement emphatic. For example —

(i) She wept ocean of tears.

In the ancient times some people used to wander here and there singing songs of chivalry. These people were either professional singers or beggars. These singers sang their songs with some story in it. These songs are called 'ballads'. Ballads were meant for the entertainment of common persons. So these are simple and short. These ballads continued from father to son.

A ballad is a short poem in quatrains (four lines). Its rhyme scheme is *ab, ab* with different stanzas.

Oliver Goldsmith is known as a great singer of Ballads.

2. EPIC—

Ballad is a short story in a poetic form while epic is a long story in poem. Epic is the poetic history of a great family, hero or God etc. It is the appreciation of adventure of some hero of mythological or national value. It is a long poem which runs into several volumes. It is grand in diction and description. It is didactic in form. Cultural values, ideals, adventures and moral values are uplifted through appreciation. The poet sweeps away the old traditions and superstitions, if some of them are impracticable.

Homer's *Iliad* is a collection of fragments into a splendid whole. There are two main types of Epic—folk Epic and literary Epic.

Main features of Epic are as follows—

- (i) The theme is some action of usual interest and importance, familiar to the people.
- (ii) Action of epic is controlled by supernatural agents.
- (iii) Poets include thrilling 'episodes' in it.
- (iv) Epic is divided into books.

Spenser's faerie Queen, Homer's Iliad and Odyssey are the best examples of Epic.

Paradise Lost by Milton is the best epic in English literature. The *Ramayani* and *The Mahabharat* in India are renowned epics.

3. DRAMATIC POETRY—

A dramatic poetry is both a dialogue and a poem. It is both subjective and objective. This poetry is based on dramatic principles. The poet presents his personal self and brings whatever he wishes through his characters he introduces in his poem. Browning's *Last Ride Together* and *By The Fire Side*, Arnold's *Forsoaken Merman*, Tennyson's *The First Quarrel* and *The Revenge*; Shelley's *Prometheus Unbound*; Swinburne's *Atlanta* and Milton's *Samson Agonistes* are the best examples of Dramatic poetry. Generally a dramatic poetry deals with the elevation of an event or action by some character. The characters in the dramatic poetry use poetic way of conversation. Character-study is the main function of dramatic poetry.

4. SATIRE—

Satire primarily belongs to impersonal type of poetry. Sometimes even a personal poem may be satirical in its theme. These poems express the oddities and absurdities of society in anger. The poet throws light on the follies and injustices of society openly to ridicule. Alexander Pope's *Dunciad* is its good example.

5. THE ALLEGORY—

The Allegory belongs to objective poetry. It is narrative. Poets make use of the allegorical manner of conveying their ideas in personal manner also. An Allegory has double meaning—the expressive meaning and hidden meaning. The poet

INTRODUCTION TO POETRY

STRUCTURE

- Introduction
- Subjective Poetry
- Narrative or Objective Poetry
- Figures of Speech
 - Test Yourself

LEARNING OBJECTIVE

After going through this unit you will be able to learn about:

- Types of poetry and its various forms
- Various figures of speech used in composing a poetry

1.1 INTRODUCTION

Poetry is a composition of words having a "spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings" with a particular rhyming scheme in it. It is not an ordinary speech like the prose. Rather it is a combination of facts or imaginations while prose is never void of facts. Poetry is more ornamental than prose. William Wordsworth rightly says 'it starts in joy and ends in wisdom'.

Poetry has mainly been divided into two forms: first, the *subjective* or *lyrical* poetry and second, the *objective* or *narrative* poetry.

1.2 SUBJECTIVE POETRY

Subjective Poetry is the out-pouring of the poet's heart. The poet exposes his likings and dislikings. He narrates his own sorrows, joys and experiences which he feels. He adds his own fears and suspenses in it.

The forms of subjective poetry are as follows—

1. LYRIC—

Lyric was most popular form of poetry during the 16th century. A lyric is fairly a short poem which expresses the personal mood, feelings and meditation of a single speaker or poet. The word 'lyric' has been derived from the Greek word 'lyre' - a musical instrument. Originally, lyric was a song in Greece which was sung or played upon a small musical instrument called 'lyre'. But in recent times a Lyric is restricted to mean a short poetic composition in which the poet's personal thoughts and emotions are expressed in a personal and musical way. It depicts the single mood of the poet. In broad sense, all personal poetry is loosely termed lyrical. Lyric poetry was a composition to be sung with lyric or harp. The spirit of all the romantic poetry of that century was strongly personal and lyrical. It is a poetic expression of a strong emotion as of love, hope, despair, grief, fear, triumph, devotion, patriotism, friendship etc.

The chief characteristics of a lyric are as follows—

- (i) It is personal in mood and emotions. It is, therefore, subjective in character.
- (ii) It is short because the common singer cannot play longer songs upon it.
- (iii) It is 'spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings'. It is not well thought or devised. It is natural outpour, a cry of poet's heart.
- (iv) It is short and musical in character.

Syllabus

B.A. English (3rd year)

Paper 1 : Prose and Drama

Prescribed text "Rose" (An anthology of poems) by W.B. Yeats

Selected poems from Rose are :

- The rose upon the rood of times
- Fergus and the Druid
- The rose of the world
- The lake isle of innisfree
- The sorrow of love
- The two trees
- The rose of peace

Prescribed text – Death of a Salesman (Drama) By Arthur Miller

Forms of Drama

- Comedy
- Tragedy
- Tragi-comedy
- Historical

Contents

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2. William Butler Yeasts : An Introduction 8-13
3. The Rose 14-32
4. Death of a Salesman by Arthur Miller 33-86
5. Forms of Drama 87-100

and Happy. In these lines Biff tells his brother about his failure in being settled in life. Willy thinks how greatly he had expected of Biff's future. Willy tells how to be successful as a businessman.

Explanation: Willy Loman is proud of his son's handsome personality. He regards it as the only requirement for success in business. According to him if a man can attract others, he gets great success in business. He claims that a confident man succeeds so well. Modesty is an obstacle in becoming popular among businessmen. When a salesman enters with a laughing face telling a few interesting stories they never keep him waiting. They welcome him and buy whatever he presents before them. But Biff is shy by nature therefore, he is out of market. The people do not love him. He fails in doing any business.

Note: I. Willy Loman tells how to be successful as a salesman.

II. Biff is shy by nature.

III. Use of Proverbial style:

"It's not what you say, it's how you say it—because personality always wins the day."

Text 21

Like a young god, Hercules—something like that, and the Sun, the Sun all around him. Remember how he waved to me? Right up from the field, with the representatives of three colleges standing by? And the buyers I brought, and the cheers when he came out—Loman, Loman, Loman! God Almighty, he'll be great yet. A star like that, magnificent, can never really fade away!

Reference to the Context: The same as in Ex. 20.

Explanation: Willy Loman is proud of his son's handsome personality. He regards it as the only requirement for success in business. According to him, his son Biff can attract others and his handsome personality creates their personal interest in him. Therefore, Biff can rise very high in business. He claims that he has succeeded so well on account of it. He is so popular among his businessmen that they never keep him waiting. They welcome him and buy whatever he presents before them. Biff too is blessed with a star like personality. Willy thinks of past when Biff was a school boy. As a football player he was very popular and all wanted to see him and welcome him personally. It shows if Biff becomes a salesman his success is sure. He can never be out of market. The people will love him and he will succeed in doing any business.

Note: I. Willy Loman's stress on personality to be successful as a salesman.

II. Hercules—in general sense a handsome youth in mythology: A hero of superhuman strength, usually depicted as carrying a club, who was celebrated for accomplishing twelve extraordinary tasks or 'labours' imposed on him by Hera and who after death was ranked among the gods.

Text 22

I am talking about your father! There were promises made across this desk! You must n't tell me you have got people to see—I put thirty-four years into this firm, Howard, and now I can't pay my insurance! You can't eat the orange and throw the peel away—a man is not a piece of fruit.

Reference To The Context: These lines have been taken from Act II of Arthur Miller's famous play, 'Death of a Salesman'. It is a heart touching story of a salesman who works hard to promote Wagner's Company and the Owner Mr. Wagner values him highly. He has been working for them for thirty-four years. But now the story takes a turn for Mr. Wagner is no more and his son Howard is more practical than sentimental. He has no regard for Willy Loman's service. Now he regards him as a

his sons who are his own blood. It is a great misery that they have no respect for Willy who used to weave dreams of their success. Willy is out of market for those men who knew him are either dead or retired. Now he visits the market but no one welcomes him. At home he is neglected for now he is not a source of income.

- Note: I. Use of animal imagery.
- II. Character of Linda.
- III. Character of sons.
- IV. Injustice to Willy

Text 19

He drives seven hundred miles, and when he get there no one knows him any more, no one welcomes him. And what goes through a man's mind, driving seven hundred miles home without having earned a cent? Why shouldn't he talk to himself?

Reference to the Context: These lines have been taken from Act I of Arthur Miller's famous play, 'Death of a Salesman', It is a heart touching story of a salesman who works hard to promote Wagner's Company and the Owner Mr. Wagner values him highly. He has been working for them for thirty-four years. But now the story takes a turn for Mr. Wagner is no more and his son Howard is more practical than sentimental.

Willy Loman has devoted the prime of his lifeline the promotion of Wagner's Company. Linda accounts for his contribution to the growth of this company. There was a time when the products of Wagner Company were not popular in New England. Neither the people of that area had heard the name of this company nor Mr. Wagner knew that area, It was Willy's labour that made this mark popular there.

Explanation: It is an irony of fate that now the same company is not ready to value him. Howard has no regard for Willy Loman's service. Now he regards him as a burden on the company for being old and outdated in the market, Willy is not able to promote business according to the expectation and requirement. Therefore now they do not pay him salary but force him to work on commission basis. To work on commission basis is not easy at this age for him. But the reality is that now he is out of market. The people who loved him are either dead or retired. He fails in doing any business. He drives seven hundred miles, and when he gets there no one knows him any more in the market. Now no one welcomes him. He wanders from shop to shop, market to market and town to town. It is very exhausting. It makes him more tired when he becomes unsuccessful. What goes through a man's mind, driving seven hundred miles home without having earned a cent can only be felt by a person emotionally attached to him. He talks to himself for no one has time to talk to him.

- Note: I. Willy Loman's misery.
- II. Cause of Willy's abnormal mental state.
- III. Linda's understanding of her husband's psychology.

Text 20

Don't be so modest. You always started too low. Walk in with a big laugh. Don't look worried. Start off with a couple of your good stories to lighten things up. It's not what you say; it's how you say it-because personality always wins the day.

Reference to the Context: These lines have been taken from Act I of Arthur Miller's famous play, 'Death of a Salesman'. It is a heart touchng story of a salesman Willy Loman who works hard to promote Wagner's Company. He has two sons Biff

Text 17

A small man can be just as exhausted as a great man. He works for a company thirty-six years this march, opens up unheard of territories to their landmark, and now in his old age they take his salary away.

Reference To The Context: These lines have been taken from Act I of Arthur Miller's famous play, 'Death of a Salesman'. It is a heart touching story of a salesman who works hard to promote Wagner's Company and the Owner Mr. Wagner values him highly. He has been working for them for thirty-four years. But now the story takes a turn for Mr. Wagner is no more and his son Howard is more practical than sentimental.

He treats ill with Willy. He has no respect for Willy's past contribution to the progress of the firm.

Explanation : Willy Loman has devoted the prime of his life in the promotion of Wagner's Company. Linda accounts for his contribution to the growth of this company. There was a time when the products of Wagner Company were not popular in New England. Neither the people of that area had heard the name of this company nor Mr. Wagner knew that area. It was Willy's labour that made this mark popular there. It is an irony of fate that now the same company is not ready to value him. Howard has no regard for Willy Loman's service. Now he regards him as a burden on the company for being old and outdated in the market, Willy is not able to promote business according to his expectation and requirement. Therefore now they do not pay him salary but force him to work on commission basis. But the reality is that now he is out of market. The people who loved him are either dead or retired. He fails in doing any business. In this condition he can't earn any commission. In short he is so short of money that he has to borrow from his friend Charley.

Note: I. Willy Loman was successful as a salesman. But his present is disappointing. He is forced to work on commission basis.

II. Commercial attitude of Howard.

Text 18

Are they any worse than his sons? When he brought them business, when he was young, they were glad to see him. But now his old friends, the old buyers that loved him so and always found some order to hand him in a pinch—they're all dead, retired.

Reference To The Context: These lines have been taken from Act I of Arthur Miller's famous play 'Death of a Salesman'. Linda accounts for Willy's contribution in the growth of Wagner Company. There was a time when the products of Wagner Company were not popular in New England. Neither the people of that area had heard the name of this company nor Mr. Wagner knew that area. It was Willy's labour that made this mark popular there. It is irony of fate that now the same company is not ready to value him. Howard has no regard for Willy Loman's service. Now he regards him as a burden on the company for being old and outdated in the market, Willy is not able to promote business according to the expectation and requirement therefore now they do not pay him salary but force him to work on commission basis. Happy says that he did not know it. Biff accuses the company owners for being ungrateful. Linda asks if Willy's sons are not ungrateful.

Explanation: Linda blames her sons, for being worse than animals if that term is proper to be used for Willy's employers. When Willy was young and smart, he used to travel continuously to promote their business. They valued him highly. Now Willy is old and weak and they regard him as a burden. If they do so, there may be an excuse that they are businessmen having no emotional relation with Willy. But what about

it is the responsibility of the family to arouse the sense of security in him and be attentive to him. If he is treated disrespectfully he will go mad.

Note: I. Willy Loman's mental condition and personality.

II. Linda Loman's rational appeal for him.

Text 15

When you write you are coming, he's all smiles, and talks about the future, and—he's just wonderful. And then the closer you seem to come, the more shaky he gets, and then, by the time you get here, he's arguing, and he seems angry at you.

Reference To The Context: These lines have been taken from Act I of Arthur Miller's famous play, 'Death of a Salesman'. It is a heart touching story of Willy Loman a salesman who works hard to promote Wagner's Company. His sons Biff and Happy are not properly settled. Happy and Biff remain lost in vain dreams. They hope to be highly prosperous in a short time. Biff has tried a number of jobs but every time he has got only failure. Still he thinks in stupid ways. He does not begin a small business under the guidance of his father.

Explanation: Linda asks Biff to pay proper respect to his father who remains anxious about his future. She tells that now Willy too has grown old and weak. He is not fit to work hard. She points out how Willy used to be happy on hearing that Biff was coming home. All the time he used to talk about Biff's future. But on Biff's arrival his joyfulness used to disappear. It shocked him greatly that Biff was not doing worth while. He wanted to guide Biff's ways but unfortunately the stupid son was not ready to believe in what Willy said.

Note: Note of universality for no son believes, in what his father says.

Text 16

He's the dearest man in the world to me, and I won't have anyone making him feel unwanted and low and blue. You've got to make up your mind now, darling there's no leeway any more. Either he's your father and you pay him that respect, or else you are not to come here.

Reference to the Context: These lines have been taken from Act I of Arthur Miller's famous play, 'Death of a Salesman'. It is a heart touching story of Willy Loman a salesman who works hard to promote Wagner's Company. His sons Biff and Happy are not properly settled. Happy and Biff remain lost in vain dreams. They hope to be highly prosperous in a short time. Biff has tried a number of jobs but every time he has got only failure. Still he thinks in stupid ways. Linda, his mother asks Biff to pay proper respect to his father who remains anxious about his future. She tells that now Willy too has grown old and weak.

Explanation: Linda does not approve Biff's neglecting behaviour towards his father. With tearful eyes she points out that Willy is not a perfect man but to her he is the dearest man in the world for he is her husband. He has devoted his whole life in making her family. Now he is old and weak. It does not mean that they should regard him as a burden. She can not bear it that Biff is all respectful to her but to Willy his behaviour is full of neglect. She asks Biff to decide if he is willing to live in this house or not. If he wishes to live here, he will have to respect his father.

Note : I. Miserable condition of an old man in his own family.

II. Linda's Character—a devoted wife and an ideal mother.

III. Note of universality.

Explanation: Biff has tried a number of jobs but every time he has got only failure. Still he thinks in stupid ways. He does not begin a small business under the guidance of his father but hopes that Bill Oliver will give him thousands of dollars to be spent any where. He dreams if Bill Oliver gives him ten thousand or even seven thousand dollars he will buy a ranch. A ranch is a large cattle-breeding establishment that may prove to be a great source of income if the person is ready to work hard.

Note: It is Biff's vain dream that Bill Oliver may give him so much money.

Text 13

That's just what I mean, Bernard can get the best marks in school, y'understand, but when he gets out in the business world, y'understand, you are going to be five times ahead of him.

Reference To The Context: These lines have been taken from Act I of Arthur Miller's famous play, 'Death of a Salesman'. It is a heart touching story of a salesman Willy Loman who works hard to promote Wagner's Company. He has two sons Biff and Happy. In these lines Biff tells his brother about his failure in being settled in life. Willy thinks how greatly he had expected of Biff's future.

Explanation ; Miller is a social writer who through his plays and characters attracts attention to the problems of universal importance. Here Willy thinks about those past days when Biff's friend Bernard was serious in his studies and Willy used to call him a book worm. Willy was hopeful that on account of his impressive personality and social temper Biff will prove five times more successful than Bernard in practical life. But Willy's theory fails for in business too solid work is required. No body considers personality for what counts is solid profit. Business is business. In tough competition the margin of profit is reduced and only skilled people are successful.

Note : I. Dramatic irony: Bernard is a successful lawyer while Biff is unemployed and unsettled,

II. There is no success without learning that inspires self-confidence.

Text 14

Willy Loman never made a lot of money. His name was never in the paper. He is not the finest character that ever lived. But he is a human being and a terrible thing is happening to him. So attention must be paid. He's not to be allowed to fall into his grave like an old dog. Attention, attention must be finally paid to such a person. You called him crazy.

Reference to the Context: These lines have been taken from Act I of Arthur Miller's famous play, 'Death Of A Salesman'. It is a heart touching story of a salesman Willy Loman who works hard to promote Wagner's Company. He has two sons Biff and Happy. In these lines Linda, their mother tells them about their father's failure and asks them to be attentive and respectful to them.

Explanation: Miller is a social writer who through his plays and characters brings to light a social evil that grown up children do not wish to be attentive and respectful to their old parents. Linda rebukes her sons for disrespecting their father. She admits that Willy has never been very rich or very successful. His name was never highlighted in newspapers for he was an ordinary man. He is not an ideal man but a common human being. But now he is suffering from tension and disappointment. To get rid of that he begins to think about his past when he was successful. He talks to himself and people regard him as a mad man. In this condition

Reference To The Context: These lines have been taken from Act I of Arthur Miller's famous play, 'Death of a Salesman'. It is a heart touching story of a salesman Willy Loman who works hard to promote Wagner's Company. He has two sons Biff and Happy. In these lines Biff tells his brother about his failure in being settled in life. He left home fourteen years ago. He did twenty or thirty jobs but could not be permanently settled.

Explanation: Arthur Miller is a social writer who through his plays and characters pays attention to the problem of unemployment. No doubt over-population is the main cause behind it. It ruins the progress, prosperity and purposes of the country. It causes a cut-throat competition at every step. The opportunities are limited but the aspirants are numberless. The employer wishes to take more work by paying less wages. The exploitation becomes unbearable and the person either begins to steal things and is dismissed or leaves the job by himself. It is the cause that Biff joined twenty or thirty jobs and left them for want of satisfaction. The problem is that he is thirty-four yet unsettled. With this hope he has come home perhaps here he should get a job. He feels that his whole life is wasted. He does not know what to do and where to go.

Note : I. A universal problem: grown-up children are unemployed and unsettled.

II. Growing frustration among the youth is a universal problem.

Text 11

I would! Somebody with character, with resistance! Like Mom, y'know? You're gonna call me a bustard when I tell you this. That girl Charlotte I was with tonight is engaged to be married in five weeks.

Reference to the Context: These lines have been taken from Act I of Arthur Miller's famous play, 'Death of a Salesman'. It is a heart touching story of Willy Loman a salesman who works hard to promote Wagner's Company. His sons Biff and Happy talk about call girls with whom they waste their time. It is a great irony that they don't wish to marry a call girl.

Explanation: Happy and Biff are lost in vain dreams. They hope to be highly prosperous in a short time. They discuss how they will like to be married at that time. At present they are mad after call girls. But their concept of a house wife is very traditional. They wish to have a girl of strong character to marry. In that matter their mother is their ideal. Happy declares to have a woman of strong character like their mother, Linda. Happy tells Biff about a call girl named Charlotte. She was with Happy just the last night. It is surprising that she is engaged to be married in five weeks. How that call girl will lead her married life with this stained past is uncertain.

Note: I. It is a bitter irony that the so called modern youths who plead for free-sex wish to have a girl of strong character to be their wife.

II. Satire of girls of loose character.

III. Cf. The following Urdu couplet:

Text 12

I think I'll go to see him. If I could get ten thousand or even seven thousand¹ dollars I could buy a beautiful ranch.

Reference To The Context: These lines have been taken from Act I of Arthur Miller's famous play, 'Death of a Salesman'. It is a heart touching story of Willy Loman a salesman who works hard to promote Wagner's Company. His sons Biff and Happy talk about their plans for which they need money. Biff hopes his friend Bill Oliver will help him in this matter. Happy and Biff are lost in vain dreams. They hope to be highly prosperous in a short time.

Text 8

He is going to get his licence taken away if he keeps that up. I'm getting nervous about him. y'know Biff?

Reference To The Context: These lines have been taken from Act I of Arthur Miller's famous play, 'Death of a Salesman'. It is a heart touching story of Willy Loman a salesman who works hard to promote Wagner's Company. Early in the morning he starts for the business tour in his car. Soon he realizes that he is unable to concentrate on driving. He comes home and tells to his wife that he couldn't drive for the car went on going off. He does not remember the last five minutes. She advises him to take an aspirin that will relieve him. His sons Biff and Happy talk about Willy's defective driving.

Explanation: Happy tells his elder brother Biff that Willy's early return is alarming. Perhaps he has met with an accident with his car otherwise he will never come back so early. According to Happy Willy has developed strange sort of defects in his driving and the worst of all is that he lacks concentration. While driving he begins to think about other things and the car goes out of control resulting in an accident. Happy fears if the father does not improve his attitude any action may be taken against him. In any condition it is certain that his driving licence shall be cancelled for Willy has become a habitual accident maker.

Note: Willy's defective driving.

Text 9

No, I've driven with him. He sees alright. He just does not keep his mind on it. Idrove into the city with him last week. He stops at a green light and then it turns and he goes.

Reference To The Context: These lines have been taken from Act I of Arthur Miller's famous play, 'Death of a Salesman'. It is a heart touching story of Willy Loman a salesman who works hard to promote Wagner's Company. Early in the morning he starts for the business tour in his car. So on he realizes that he is unable to concentrate on driving. He comes home and tells his wife that he couldn't drive for the car went on going off. He does not remember the last five minutes. She advises him to take an aspirin that-wiil relieve him. His sons Biff and Happy talk about Willy's defective driving. Happy tells his elder brother Biff that Willy's early return is alarming. Perhaps he has meet with an accident with his car.

Explanation: Happy has a good experience of his father's defective driving. He gives an alarming report of it to his elder brother Biff. According to Happy Willy has developed strange sort of defects in his driving and the worst of all is that he lacks concentration. While driving he begins to think about other things and the car goes out of control resulting in an accident. Besides this, Willy grows so much absentminded that on crossings his sense is completely lost. He stops at a green light and when it turns red and he runs the car. With this stupid behaviour if a man drives his car it is likely to met with a serious accident.

Note: I. Willy's absentmindedness.

II. Willy's mental health is not good.

Text 10

I'm thirty-four years old, I ought to be making my future. That's when I come running home. And now, I get here, and I don't know what to do with myself. [After a pause] I've always made a point of not wasting my life, and every time I come back here I know that all I've done is to waste my life.

Text 6

The street is lined with cars; There's not a breath of fresh air in the neighbourhood. The grass don't grow any more, you an can't raise a carrot in the backyard. They should have had a law against apartment houses. Remember those two beautiful elm trees out there? When I and Biff hung the swing between them?

Reference to the Context: These lines have been taken from Act I of Arthur Miller's famous play, 'Death of a Salesman'. It is a heart touching story of a salesman Willy Loman who works hard to promote Wagner's Company. Early in the morning he starts for the business tour in his car. Soon he realizes that he is unable to concentrate on driving. He comes home and says to his wife that he couldn't drive for the car went on going off. He does not remember the last five minutes. She advises him to take an aspirin that will relieve him. He thinks about past good days.

Explanation: Willy Loman's present is full of disappointment and defeat. His past was full of success and hope. To get rid of tension of the present he likes to think and talk about the past. He curses the polluting atmosphere of the apartment houses at present. There is no sanitation and fresh air. He remembers those happy days in past when the houses were limited in number and there was sufficient open space, and fresh air. He used to grow carrots and other vegetables in the backyard but now even grass does not grow there. There were two elm trees. A swing was hung between those trees by them for Biff. Now trees have disappeared and the whole space has turned into a car-parking space.

Note: I. A universal problem in all big cities. Trees are cut down to provide space for car-parking.

II. Growing pollution too is a universal problem.

III. Miller as a social thinker.

Text 7

There's more people! That's what's ruining the country! Population is getting out of control. The competition is maddening! Smell the stink from that apartment house! And another one the other side.

Reference to the Context: These lines have been taken from Act I of Arthur Miller's famous play, 'Death of a Salesman'. It is a heart touching story of a salesman Willy Loman who works hard to promote Wagner's Company. Willy Loman's present is full of disappointment and defeat. His past was full of success and hope. To get rid of tension of the present he likes to think and talk about the past. He curses the polluting atmosphere of the apartment houses at present.

Explanation: Willy Loman thinks over the problem of the growing pollution. He is of the opinion that over-population is the main cause behind it. It ruins the progress, prosperity and purposes of the country. It causes a cut-throat competition at every step. The opportunities are limited but the aspirants are numberless. It is true to houses and colonies also. There is no sanitation and fresh air. He remembers those happy days in past when the houses were limited in number and there was sufficient open space, and fresh air. It is replaced by stink and bad smell.

Note: I. A universal problem: over-population is making the big cities over-crowded and creating a tough competition in every field.

II. Growing pollution too is a universal problem.

III. Miller as a social thinker.

query about his earnings. It is no criticism of a young man. If he takes it as his insult the wrong is not with Willy's behaviour but Biff's lack of understanding.

Notes: Arthur Miller is a realistic dramatist. What he points out in reference to Willy's family is a universal problem. Every young man thinks it is his right to demand money as much he wishes from his father but if the father tries to know about the son's education or career, the son takes it ill and reports it to the mother that his father has insulted him.

Text 4

Biff Loman is lost. In the greatest country in the world a young man and with, such-personal attractiveness, gets lost. And such a hard worker. There is one thing about Biff—he's not lazy.

Reference to the Context: These lines, have been taken from Act I of Arthur Miller's famous play 'Death of a Salesman'. Willy Loman is a salesman whose wife Linda asks him to behave well with the elder son Biff Loman. Willy does not admit his wife's charge that he behaves ill with his elder son Biff. Willy claims that he never lost his temper while talking to Biff. As a guardian it is his right to know about his elder son's career. He made only a natural query about his earnings. According to Willy, Biff needs proper guidance to be successful in life.

Explanation: Willy, claims that it is the only defect with Biff that he is a bit confused. He does not know what to do, how to do and where to do. Feeling sympathy for Biff he remarks that for this misery not only Biff but some other factors also are responsible. America is the biggest country in the world with numberless options for a young man. Besides, Biff has such an impressive personality that all suggest him various ways to march on. It disturbs his concentration and in place of working hard in one direction, he changes his direction frequently. The result is that he stands firmly nowhere. He is not a lazy man but a confused man.

Note: I. Willy's guardian like attitude.

II. Character of Biff—handsome, hardworking but confused.

Text 5

I'll see him in the morning; I'll have a nice talk with him. I'll get him a job selling. He could be big in no time. My God! Remember how they used to follow him around in high school? When he smiled it one of them their faces lit up.

Reference to the Context: These lines have been taken from Act I of Arthur Miller's famous play 'Death of a Salesman'. Willy Loman is a salesman whose wife Linda asks him to behave well with the elder son Biff Loman. Willy does not admit his wife's charge that he behaves ill with his elder son Biff. Willy claims that he never lost his temper while talking to Biff. As a guardian it is his right to know about his elder son's career. According to Willy, Biff needs proper guidance to be successful in life. It is the only defect with Biff that he is a bit confused.

Explanation: Willy promises his wife Linda that he will talk to Biff in the morning. He will like to guide him well to make his career. He thinks that a hard working man with an attractive personality may well be successful in the business of selling goods. It is such a profitable trade that Biff may be prosperous within no time. He knows his son Biff's talent of becoming popular among people. Willy remembers those past days when Biff was a school going child of high school. Numberless students were mad after him. For them he was a star. They waited to have a glimpse of his face. If he smiled on any of them, his face looked bright with joy and pride.

Note: Willy thinks of past whenever he wishes to be happy or inspired.

Mr. Wagner values him highly. He has been working for them for thirty-four years. But the story takes a turn when Mr. Wagner is no more and his son Howard is more practical than sentimental. He has no regard for Willy Loman's service. Now he regards him a burden on the company for being old and outdated in the market, Willy is not able to promote business according to the expectation and requirement. Now Willy feels tired in long driving. His wife Linda asks Willy to talk about it to Howard.

Explanation: Willy Loman tells his wife that unfortunately Mr. Wagner is not alive. He was great like a Prince and knew how to respect senior employees. Wagner's son Howard is not a good man. He has no respect for human relations. He gives no credit to Willy's past services. Willy accounts for his contribution to the growth of this company. There was a time when the products of Wagner Company were not popular in New England Neither the people of that area had heard the name of this company nor Mr. Wagner knew that area. It was Willy's labour that made this mark popular there. It is an irony of fate that now the same company is not ready to value him.

Note: I. Character of Mr. Wagner.

II. Character of Howard.

III. Commercial attitude of the company.

Text 2

It was so nice to see them shaving together, one behind the other, in the bathroom. And going out together. You notice? The whole house smells of shaving lotion.

Reference to the Context: These lines have been taken from Act I of Arthur Miller's famous play, 'Death of a Salesman', It is a heart touching story of Willy Loman a salesman who works hard to promote Wagner's Company. Early in the morning he starts for the business tour in his car. Soon he realizes that he is unable to concentrated on driving. He comes home and says to his wife that he couldn't drive for the car went on going off. He does not remember the last five minutes. She advises him to take an aspirin that will relieve him. He asks about his sons Biff and Happy.

Explanation: Linda wants to make her husband tension-free. She begins to tell about Biff and Happy's mischief. They make fun in everything. According to her it is quite pleasing to see them shaving. They do it together. One stands behind the other. He may mark how close they are to each other. They spill the shaving lotion more than they use. The result is that the whole house smells of shaving lotion.

Note: I. Thus, Linda points out the unity of the family to ensure Willy that he should not worry for his sons who are young and friendly.

II. She passes satire on their carelessness too.

III. She wishes, that Willy should think about family more than business.

Text 3

When the hell did I lose my temper? I simply asked him if he was making any money. Is that a criticism?

Reference to the Context: These lines have been taken from Act I of Arthur Miller's famous play 'Death of a Salesman'. Willy Loman is a salesman whose wife Linda asks him to behave well with the elder son Biff Loman.

Explanation: Willy does not admit his wife's change that he behaves ill with his elder son Biff. Willy claims that he never lost his temper while talking to Biff. As a guardian it is his right to know about his elder son's career. He made only a natural

personal name or any other name. Howard is a pure businessman who wants business. If you can't sell things you are not fit to be a salesman. Charley asks Willy to think over the problem objectively and decide what he can sell in the world and should start selling that thing.

Q. 8. How does Charley prove that Willy was a successful salesman?

Ans. Charley claims that no body should blame Willy for being an unsuccessful salesman. For a salesman there is no limit of territory. He is allowed to whatever he can sell. He is neither a mechanic to mend things nor a doctor to treat nor a lawyer to point out a law. He is a man showing dreams that what he sells is supreme. He wins on other's smile. When he does not get smile, his salesmanship faces danger to its existence. When Willy found he was not able to sell other things he sold what he could sell quite easily though it was his own life.

Q. 9. Write a brief note on the major characters of the play.

Ans. Arthur Miller's 'Death of a Salesman' rotates around Willy's family which consists of his wife Linda and two sons Biff and Happy. Willy Loman is the Hero in the play. He is a man of sixty who works in Wagner's Company. He has been working there as a travelling salesman for the last thirty four years. Mr. Wagner valued him very highly. After Mr. Wagner's death his son Howard looks after the company. He regards Willy as a burden on the company. Linda Loman is Willy's wife and loves him greatly. She cares for him and feels disappointed when she finds that the sons do not respect him. Biff Loman is the eldest son who was a star football player. But now he is unemployed and unsettled though he is thirty four. Happy Loman is the younger son who works in a departmental store. He has his own apartment in the town. He is thirty two.

Q. 10. Write a brief note on the minor characters of the play.

Ans. Arthur Miller's 'Death of a Salesman' rotates around Willy's family. But the action develops with the help of other characters also. They have their own importance in the play. Charley is Willy Loman's neighbour and friend. He lends fifty dollars a week to Willy Loman. Having borrowed money from him Willy deposits his insurance instalment. Charley offers Willy to join his firm at fifty dollars a week. But Willy refuses. Bernard is Charley's son and Biff's friend. He helps Biff in examinations in the school days. Now Bernard is a successful lawyer. Ben is Willy Loman's brother. He died as a rich businessman. He appears in Willy Loman's dreams and invites him to work with him in other countries to be rich. Howard Wagner is the present owner of the Wagner Company. He has no regard for Willy's past services and dismisses him from the company. Miss Frances lives in Boston and has illicit relations with Willy Loman. Unfortunately Biff comes to know about it. Miss Forsythe is a call-girl who attracts Happy. Happy offers her champagne. Letta is another call-girl who comes with Miss Forsythe. Stanley is a waiter attending Happy. He offers champagne to Forsythe and later on attends Willy. Jenny is Charley's secretary and welcomes Willy

EXPLANATIONS

Text 1

If old man Wagner was alive I'd been in charge of New York now! That man was a prince, he was a masterful man. But that boy of his, that Howard, he doesn't appreciate. When I went north the first time, the Wagner Company didn't know where New England was!

Reference to the Context: These lines have been taken from Act I of Author Miller's famous play, 'Death of a Salesman'. It is a heart moving story of Willy Loman, a salesman who works hard to promote Wagner's Company and the owner

Q. 3. Account for Willy's views regarding Mr. Wagner.

Or

Account for Willy's views regarding Mr. Wagner's son Howard.

Or

Discuss Willy's contribution to the progress of Wagner Company.

Ans. While talking to his wife Linda, Willy Loman claims that unfortunately Mr. Wagner is not alive and this is the cause of Willy's suffering. Mr. Wagner was great like a prince and knew how to respect senior employees. Wagner's son Howard is not a good man. He has no respect for human relations. He gives no credit to Willy's past services. Willy accounts for his contribution to the growth of this company. There was a time when the products of Wagner Company were not popular in New England. Neither the people of that area had heard the name of this company nor Mr. Wagner knew that area. It was Willy's labour that made this mark popular there. It is an irony of fate that now the same company is not ready to value him. Howard regards Willy as a burden on the company.

Q. 4. Account for Linda's evaluation of Willy's personality.

Ans. According to Linda Willy is not a very special person. He is a simple man. Linda admits that Willy has never been very rich or very successful. His name was never highlighted in newspapers for he was an ordinary man. He is not an ideal man but a common human being. But in old age he is suffering from tension and disappointment, To get rid of that he begins to think about his past when he was successful. He talks to himself and people regard him as a mad man. In this situation it is the responsibility of the family to arouse the sense of security in him and be attentive to him. If he is treated disrespectfully he will go mad.

Q. 5. Account for Willy's views on the role of attractive personality in business.

Ans. Willy claims that attractive personality is the only important thing in business. Willy thinks about those past days when Biff's friend Bernard was serious in his studies and Willy used to call him a book worm. Willy was hopeful that on account of his impressive personality and social temper Biff will prove five times more successful than Bernard in practical life. But Willy's theory fails for in business too solid work is required. No body considers personality for what counts is solid profit. Business is business. In tough competition the profit is reduced and only skilled people are successful.

Q. 6. Account for Willy's theory: Walk in with a big laugh, Don't look worried.

Ans. Willy Loman is proud of his son's handsome personality. He regards it as the only requirement for success in business. According to him if a man can attract others and he creates their personal interest in him, he can rise very high in business. He claims that he had succeeded so well on account of it. He was so popular among his businessmen that they never kept him waiting. They welcome him and buy whatever he presents to them. But the reality is otherwise that he admits before his wife that now he is out of market. The people who loved him are either dead or retired. He fails in doing any business.

Q. 7. Account for Charley's advice to Willy on salesmanship.

Ans. Charley asks Willy not to be sentimental but realize the truth that Howard has dismissed him not because of any personal cause but purely for a commercial cause that now Howard is not satisfied with his work. Willy is not able to promote the business. He is not able to sell things. It is not important whether he calls him by

Charley: Nobody dast blame this man. You don't understand; Willy was a salesman. And for a salesman, there is no rock bottom to the life. He don't put a bolt to a nut, he don't tell you the law or give you medicine. He is a man way out there in the blue, riding on a smile and a shoeshine. And when they start not smiling back—that is an earthquake. And then you get yourself a couple of spots on your hat, and you're finished. Nobody dast blame this man. A salesman is got to dream, boy. It comes with the territory.

An Expert Salesman

Linda feels sorry on Willy's grave for not shedding tears. She feels as if he were on a business tour. She feels that Willy is not dead and he will come back. She knows that he committed suicide so that they might live happily with twenty-thousand dollars to be paid by the insurance company. It is his last deal in which he sold himself at a very high cost. He proved himself an expert salesman. Thus the whole story ends with a strong note of dramatic irony that in this commercial world a man alive is cheaper than a man dead. When Willy was alive nobody was ready to pay him even a dollar but when he died he was paid twenty-thousand dollars.

Conclusion

Thus, Arthur Miller's 'Death of a Salesman' is a heart touching story of a salesman Willy Loman, who proves that a salesman never dies. The title of the play stands fully justified.

Questions For Short Answers

Q. 1. Account for Willy's views on growing pollution.

Or

Account for Arthur Miller's views on growing pollution.

Ans. Arthur Miller is a social thinker. He expresses his views on growing pollution in 'Death of a Salesman'. When Willy Loman pleads for fresh air and sanitation, it grieves him that with growing progress of material wealth the cities are suffering from want of fresh air and sanitation. He curses the polluting atmosphere of the apartment houses at present. There is no sanitation and fresh air. He remembers those happy days in past when the houses were limited in number and there was sufficient open space, and fresh air. He used to grow carrots and other vegetables in the backyard but now even grass does not grow there. There were two elm trees. A swing was hung between those trees by them for Biff. Now trees have disappeared and the whole space is turned into a car-parking place. In this way Willy pleads for conservation of greenery.

Q 2. Account for Willy's views on overgrowing population.

Or

Account for Arthur Miller's views on overgrowing population.

Ans. Arthur Miller is a social thinker. He expresses his views on overgrowing population in 'Death of a Salesman'. Willy Loman thinks over the problem of the growing over population. He is of the opinion that over-population is the main cause of pollution also. Over population ruins the progress, prosperity and purposes of the country. It causes a cut-throat competition at every step. The opportunities are limited but the aspirants are numberless. It is true to houses and colonies also. There is no sanitation and fresh air. He remembers those happy days in past when the houses were *limited in number and there was sufficient open space, and fresh air.* It is replaced by stink and bad smell. Thus According to Willy over population is very harmful for the development of the country.

Cause of Failure

Willy Loman is out of market for those who knew and respected him are either retired or dead. He visits the market but no one welcomes him. It irritates him that having covered a long distance he goes there but proves a failure. It hurts his mind and makes him a bit abnormal. He begins to suffer from a sense of inferiority.

Want of Support from Children

Unfortunately his elder son Biff too is still unemployed and unsettled though Willy had great hopes from him. Biff is thirty-four. Biff tells his brother Happy that he has taken twenty or thirty different kinds of job since he left home before the war but every time he has been unsuccessful. He feels that he is only wasting his life in spite of being a man of thirty-four. Willy still hopes that Biff will do wonders in business.

False Optimism: Return to Past

This false optimism dominates Willy so greatly that he begins to live in the past—the period in which he was successful and hopeful for a brighter tomorrow. Biff was not doing well in studies. His neighbour Charley's son Bernard was Biff's friend. With his help Biff used to pass his examinations, Willy didn't see anything wrong in it. Biff was a football player and in his memory Willy remembers those days: young Bernard comes to him and reports how Biff was not serious in studies. Willy is willing to claim that Bernard is a book worm who will not be able to make much progress but Biff is a star.

These memories amuse Willy for they have no mark of failure. He talks to his dead brother Ben who asks Willy to go with him to other countries to make money. All these talks go on in his mind. They fill his mind with an absolute false sense of security. But his practice of getting lost in memory creates a practical problem. Others see him talking to himself and regard him mad. Besides, when he drives, his car is likely to meet with accidents for in place of looking on the road he is lost in memory.

Dismissal of Services: A Defeated Man

Everywhere he hears that now he is not fit for the job of a salesman. He asks Howard the present owner of Wagner's Company to permit him to work in New York. Howard asks him to work nowhere for he is a burden on the company. He is dismissed. Biff also tells the truth that he is wanted nowhere. Now Willy is a defeated man.

A Hard Decision

He takes a hard decision. Borrowing money from Charley, he deposits his insurance-installment and commits suicide. The family gets twenty-thousand dollars. Thus, the salesman sells himself. What he fails in earning as a living man, he earns after death.

A Successful Salesman

Charley pays tribute to Willy saying no body should blame Willy for being an unsuccessful salesman. For a salesman there is no limit of territory. He is allowed to whatever he can sell. He is neither a mechanic to mend things nor a doctor to treat nor a lawyer to point out a law. He is a man showing dreams that what he sells is supreme. He wins on other's smile. When he does not get smile, his salesmanship faces danger to its existence. When Willy found he was not able to sell other things he sold what he could sell quite easily though it was his own-life. Willy sells himself. What he fails in earning as a living man, he earns after death as payment from the insurance company.

grave for not shedding tears. She feels as if he were on a business tour. She feels that Willy is not dead and he will come back. She knows that he committed suicide so that they might live happily with the money to be paid by the insurance company. She laments over his grave.

Linda: Willy, dear, I can't cry. Why did you do it? I search and search and I search, and I can't understand it, Willy. I made the last payment on the house today. Today, dear and there'll be nobody home. We're free and clear. We're free.

Characters

Miller takes characters from the lower middle class. Willy Loman is the Hero in the play. He is a man of sixty who works in Wagner's Company. He has been working there as a travelling salesman for the last thirty-four years. Mr. Wagner valued him very highly. After Mr. Wagner's death his son Howard looks after the company. He regards Willy as a burden on the company. Linda Loman is Willy's wife and loves him greatly. Biff is the eldest son who is unemployed and unsettled though he is thirty four. Happy is the younger son who works in a departmental store. He is thirty-two. Charley is Willy Loman's neighbour and friend. Having borrowed money from him Willy deposits his insurance instalments. He offers Willy to join his firm at fifty dollars a week. Bernard is Charley's son and Biff's friend. Ben was Willy Loman's brother. He died as a rich businessman. Stanley is a waiter. Letta and Miss Forsythe are two callgirls who flirt with Biff and Happy.

Thus Arthur Miller is a great dramatist,

Q. 17. Write a brief note on the title of the play 'Death of a Salesman'.

Or

Q. 18. Account for Arthur Miller's 'Death of a Salesman' as a heart touching story.

Ans. Title : Death of a Salesman

Introduction

Arthur Miller is a modern dramatist with a new depth in the understanding of human psychology. In 'Death of a Salesman' he presents before us a serious issue to think over again and again. What is the meaning of the term 'Death'? Generally the end of physical existence is taken to be 'Death'. But when we think about the 'Death of a Salesman' it suggests not the end of physical existence but the utility of that person in the capacity of a salesman. When Willy Loman fails as a salesman and his company dismisses his services for all practical purposes he is dead as a salesman. But Willy is a perfect salesman. He is not to be defeated so easily. He proves that he is not dead. When he has nothing to sell he sells himself. What he fails in earning as a living man he earns after his death and dies with this sense of satisfaction that the insurance company would pay twenty-thousand dollars to his beloved wife Linda who has always been devoted to him and has suffered a lot. Thus he dies as a successful salesman.

A Heart Touching Story

Arthur Miller's 'Death of a Salesman' is a heart touching story of a salesman Willy Loman, who works hard to promote Wagner's Company and the Owner Mr. Wagner values him highly. Willy has been working for them for thirty-four years. But now the story takes a turn for Mr. Wagner is no more and his son Howard is more practical than sentimental. He has no regard for Willy Loman's services. Howard regards him as burden on the company for being old and outdated in the market, Willy is not able to promote business according to the expectation and requirement.

got in this world is what you can sell. And the funny thing is that you're a salesman, and you don't know that.

Charley refers to some Morgan who was not impressive but was liked for he did business well.

A Realist

Arthur Miller is a realist who intends to expose the reality of contemporary society though it is very ugly. For example, Biff and Happy are brothers yet they talk like friends about ladies shamelessly and flirt without hitch. Happy claims that Biff has taught him all about women. He says that he is still shy in that matter.

Happy is expert in lady hunting. One day when Happy is talking to Stanley. Just then a girl comes and sits in a nearby chair. Happy and Stanley watch her. Stanley asks the girl if he should bring a menu. She replies that she is waiting for someone but she would like to have a..... Happy asks Stanley to bring her champagne. He introduces himself as a seller of champagne. She feels obliged to him. He says it's all company money. He flatters her saying that her face deserves to be on a magazine cover. Stanley confirms his idea. But the girl claims that she has been on the cover page of many magazines. She thanks while taking the drink. Happy remarks that in France "Champagne is called the drink of complexion."

Just then Biff comes and sits with Happy. Happy introduces him to the girl presenting him as a great football player. The girl tells that she is Miss Forsythe. She asks about his team. Happy replies that he plays for the New York Giants. He introduces himself as Harold but that West Point people call him Happy. Happy asks Biff if he wants that girl but Biff is in search of Willy. Happy asks the girl if she is busy. She says that she has just to make a phone call. Happy asks her to come back soon.

Just after a while, Miss Forsythe returns with another girl named Letta. Happy asks Biff to enjoy himself with girls. After some time both the brothers go with them leaving their father alone there.

Heart-Moving Dialogue

It is Miller's remarkable skill that guides him in composition of impressive dramatic speeches. Some impress with the thought element and some on account of their emotional appeal. For example Linda tells about her husband to Biff and Happy:

Linda: I don't say he's a great man. Willy Loman never made a lot of money. His name was never in the paper. He is not the finest character that ever lived. But he is a human being, and a terrible thing is happening to him. So attention must be paid. He 's not to be allowed to fall into his grave like an old dog. Attention, attention must be finally paid to such a person. You called him crazy.

She claims that many people think his balance of mind is lost. But the only trouble with him is that he is exhausted. Happy confirms her view point.

Linda: A small man can be just as exhausted as a great man. He works for a company thirty-six years this march opens up unheard-of territories to their landmark, and now in his old age they take his salary away.

Dramatic Situations

Miller's plays introduce highly dramatic situations. In 'All My Sons', Miller shows how Joe kills himself on knowing that his son committed suicide for he was ashamed of his father's unfair doing. In 'Death Of A Salesman', Willy Loman commits suicide so that his family might live happily with twenty thousand dollars to be paid by the insurance company. When Willy dies, Linda feels sorry on Willy's

Or

Q. 15. Evaluate Arthur Miller as a great modern dramatist in the light of the play 'Death of a Salesman'.

Or

Q. 16, Account for Arthur Miller's contribution to drama.

Ans. Arthur Miller : A Great Dramatist

Introduction

Arthur Miller is a great American dramatist. He is very popular far and wide. He is a great modern dramatist in the sense that he raises almost all the important problems of the contemporary society. It is the greatness of Miller that his vision is universal. Whatever he writes in reference to the American society is true to the whole mankind. In it is hidden the source of his wide popularity that his 'All My Sons' had 328 performances while 'Death Of A Salesman' ran for 742 performances. His other popular plays are 'The Crucible', 'Memory Of Two Mondays' and 'After The Fall'.

An Intellectual Dramatist

Arthur is regarded as an intellectual dramatist for his plays force to think upon social, moral and political problems. These plays bring to light a social critic hidden in his mind. He is a strong critic of contemporary America and its values. In 'Death of a Salesman' he throws light on the commercial attitude of people. Willy is disappointed when Howard does not honour his past services. Willy meets Howard. Howard shows him a tape recorder that charms Willy. Just after a while Willy tells him his problem that he can't travel more. Howard asks what then he can do. Howard says that they do a road business. It is not possible without travelling. Willy reminds him that he is in the service of this company since Howard was a little child in his father's arms. Now he wants a favour. Willy asks him to give fifty dollars a week. But Howard says that business is business. Willy asks for forty dollars a week. Howard refuses and that irritates Willy.

Willy: I am talking about your father! There were promises made across this desk! You must n't tell me you have got people to see-I put thirty-four years into this firm, Howard, and now I can't pay my insurance! You can't eat the orange and throw the peel away-a man is not a piece of fruit.

Miller puts stress on growing commercialism in America. Here Wagner the former owner of the company represents large-heartedness and that emotional attitude which inspired Willy to find out new territories for the company.

Willy: If old man Wagner was alive I'd a been in charge of New York now! That man was a Prince, he was a masterful man. But that boy of his, that Howard, he don't appreciate. When I went north the first time, the Wagner Company didn't know where New England was!

Howard gives him a flat answer that he does not need his services, It shocks Willy and he shows his willingness to go to Boston, the place from where he was asking to be shifted. But Howard declares:

Howard: I don't want you to represent us. I've been meaning to tell you for a long time now.

He does not think about Willy's problem. He has no sense of responsibility for the man who has given the prime of his life to the promotion of his company. Charley rightly evaluates the situation and tries to make the whole picture clear to Willy.

Charley: Willy, when're you gonna realize that them things don't mean anything? You named him Howard, but you can't sell that. The only thing you

A Massive Funeral: Biff & Happy

It is Willy's dream that his death will not be taken silently by people of New England. There would be so many people who could come for the funeral from all over New England which would make Biff respect him and he would not do things out of spite.

Willy; Ben that funeral will be massive! They'll come from Maine, Massachusetts, Vermont, New Hampshire! All the old-timers with the strange licence plates—the boy will be thunderstruck.

In The Requiem we come to know that this dream is not fulfilled. There is none from anywhere.

Linda: Why didn't anybody come?

Besides it, Biff does not feel impressed with his father and accuses him for having wrong dreams.

Biff: He never knew who he was.

Happy has something different to tell others about his father. He is proud of his father. It fulfils Willy's dream.

Happy: All right, boy. I'm gonna show you and everybody else that Willy Loman did not die in vain. He had a good dream. It's the only dream you can have-to come out number-one man. He fought it out here, and this is where I'm gonna win it for him.

Charley's Friendship

It is Willy's dream that only Charley is his friend.

Willy: [On the verge of tears] Charley, you're the only friend I got. Isn't that a remarkable thing ?

Willy's this dream is fulfilled for Charley supports his family in a friendly way after Willy's death. Only he understands Willy and expresses his innermost feeling for him in way of tributes on Willy's death.

Charley: Nobody dast blame this man. You don't understand; Willy was a salesman. And for a salesman, there is no rock bottom to the life. He don't put a bolt to a nut, he don't tell you the law or give you medicine. He is a man way out there in the blue, riding on a smile and a shoeshine. And when they start not smiling back-that is an earthquake. And then you get yourself a couple of spots on your hat, and you're finished. Nobody dast blame this man. A salesman is got to dream, boy. It comes with the territory.

Charley pays tribute to Willy in these words. According to him no body should blame Willy for being an unsuccessful salesman. For a salesman there is no limit of territory. He is allowed to whatever he can sell. He is neither a mechanic to mend things nor a doctor to treat or a lawyer to point out a law. He is a man showing dreams that what he sells is supreme. He wins on other's smile. When he does not get smile, his salesmanship faces danger to its existence. When Willy found he was not able to sell other things he sold what he could sell quite easily though it was his own life. Willy sells himself. What he fails in earning as a living man, he earns after death as payment from the insurance company.

Conclusion

Thus, The Requiem is very important in 'Death of a Salesman'.

Q. 14. Account for Arthur Miller as a great dramatist.

Dramatic Importance: Clarity Of Action

It is *The Requiem* that concludes this tragic play and provides clarity to the action of the play. When the Act II ends there is a slight suggestion of Willy's death that is confirmed in the Requiem, Willy tells Ben that everyman should add up to something. He recognizes how greatly his wife has suffered. He has for her a *guaranteed twenty-thousand dollar policy of insurance*. The money shall be paid to Linda" after his death. Ben warns Willy if they do not honour the policy. He claims that they can not refuse. Ben calls it a cowardly thing. Willy admires his sons for their devotion to him. Willy talks to Biff telling him about how to play foot -ball. Willy begins to go quietly outside. Linda calls him but he does not respond to her call. Suddenly there is heard the sound of a car starting off at full speed. The car meets with an accident and Willy dies. It is thus he commits suicide so that his family might get twenty thousand dollar from the insurance company. The accident is merely suggested and Willy's death is confirmed in the Requiem.

Fate Of Willy's Dream

Throughout the play Willy appears as a dreamer, and it is the Requiem in which it can be evaluated how many of his dreams are fulfilled. Willy remains in an abnormal mental state talking to those who are not present there. In fact, he lives in two worlds-the physical as well as the mental. It is his misery that the mental dominates the physical. In this way he dreams all the time. In these dreams he thinks about his past that is full of his weakness also. It is the Requiem in which it can be *evaluated whether his dreams were right or wrong* on the one hand and how many of his dreams are fulfilled on the other.

Relief to Linda: Twenty Thousand Dollar

Arthur Miller's famous play 'Death of a Salesman' is a heart touching story of Willy Loman a salesman who works hard to promote Wagner's Company. It was Willy's labour that made this mark popular there. It is an irony of fate that now the same company is not ready to recognise him. Howard has no regard for Willy Loman's service. When Willy asks for a favour he is dismissed. He is asked to get out of the company. Willy leaves the company with a broken heart. Still he does not forget to deposit the installment of Insurance policy for which he borrows money from his friend Charley. Willy imagines he is talking to his dead brother Ben that is suggestive of Willy's own thinking. He feels consoled with the thought that after his death his wife Linda will not suffer as the insurance policy will pay her twenty thousand dollars. Willy tells Ben that it will be his contribution to the family. He claims that it's a *guaranteed twenty-thousand dollar proposal*. It suggests how Willy has proved that he is a remarkable salesman. At last he has sold himself for twenty-thousand dollar.

When Willy dies, Linda feels sorry on Willy's grave for not shedding tears. She feels as if he were on a business tour. She feels that Willy is not dead and he will come back. She knows that he committed suicide so that they might live happily with twenty-thousand dollars paid by the insurance company. She laments over his grave.

Linda: Willy, dear, I can't cry. Why did you do it? I search and search and I search, and I can't understand it, Willy. I made the last payment on the house today. Today, dear, And there'll be nobody home. We're free and clear. Where free.

It becomes clear in The Requiem that at least this dream seen by Willy proves true that the Insurance Company pays twenty thousand dollar to Linda and it solves her problems.

I'm working for. Sometimes I sit in my apartment-all alone. And I think of the rent I'm paying. And it's crazy. But then. It's what I always wanted. My own apartment, a car and plenty of women. And still, godadmit, I'm lonely.

Biff proposes Happy to work with him. They can buy a ranch, a large cattle-breeding establishment, and raise cattle. With their physical labour they can get great success in that. They begin to dream of grand success. They plan to be married on being prosperous. They intend to get girls of character like their mother. Happy says that the girl Charlotte who was with him that night is engaged to be married in five weeks.

Their Relations with Willy, Their Father

Biff and Happy love their father Willy very much. They care for him. They are alarmed when they hear about their father's careless driving. Happy tells Biff that in this way Willy may get his driving licence cancelled. He tells about his father's confusion that he stops at green light and starts at the red light. Biff thinks that Willy is colour blind. Happy remarks that Willy has the finest eye for colour in the business.

Happy points out a serious thing about Willy that he talks to himself. Besides, he talks much about Biff. Biff asks Happy what he says. Happy admits that he could never understand that. Still he concludes that Willy is sad for Biff is not settled. Biff confesses that he is a failure in that matter.

It is very wrong on their part that they go with girls leaving Willy alone in the restaurant. When they come back Linda tells Biff that she does not know if Willy is alive or dead. Happy calls Biff upstairs but he rebukes to go away. He asks his mother why she used that expression for the father. She scolds him to get out- She forbids him to go near him. Biff asks where he is. She asks them to go to their whores."

Linda: You're a pair of animals! Not one, not another living soul would have had the cruelty to walk out on that man in a restaurant!

Biff decides to hide nothing from his father and tells him that he has tried his luck every where but failed in getting a proper job. He tells that he has been in jail also.

Biff: Pop, I'm nothing! I'm nothing, Pop. Can you understand that? There is no spite in it any more. I'm just what I am that's all.

Willy is lost in his memory and talks to Ben who invites him to go to forest for having diamonds. Willy tells Ben that everyman should add up to something. He recognizes how greatly his wife has suffered. He has for her a guaranteed twenty-thousand dollar policy of insurance. The money shall be "paid to Linda after his death. Ben warns Willy if they do not honour the policy. He claims that they can not refuse. Ben calls it a cowardly thing. Willy admires his sons for their devotion to him and dies.

Q. 13. Account for the importance of 'The Requiem' in Arthur Miller's 'Death of a Salesman'.

Ans. 'The Requiem': 'Death of a Salesman'.

Introduction

'The Requiem' in Arthur Miller's 'Death of a Salesman' claims a great importance. The play consists of two acts followed by the Requiem. A special mass said or sung for the repose of the soul of a dead person is called a requiem. In 'Death of a Salesman' the last chapter is entitled as The Requiem for it appears after Willy's death and shows how people pray for the repose of Willy's soul. It justifies the title of the chapter but The Requiem claims a greater dramatic importance.

apartment also. Linda admires their mutual understanding and affection. She tells Willy how the sons love each other.

Linda: It was so nice to see them shaving together, one behind the other, in the bathroom. And going out together. You notice? The whole house smells of shaving lotion.

They are more like friends than brothers therefore they have no hitch in talking about girls to each other. Biff asks if Happy is smoking for he can't sleep when he smells it. Happy and Biff talk about women. Happy claims that Biff has taught him all about women. He says that he is still shy in that matter.

Happy is expert in lady-hunting. One day when Happy is talking to Stanley. Just then a girl comes and sits in a nearby chair. Happy and Stanley watch her. Stanley asks the girl if he should bring a menu. She replies that she is waiting for someone but she would like to have a..... Happy asks Stanley to bring her champagne. He introduces himself as a seller of champagne. She feels obliged to him. He says it's all company money. He flatters her saying that her face deserves to be on a magazine cover. Stanley confirms his idea. But the girl claims that she has been on the cover page of many magazines. She pays thanks while taking the drink. Happy remarks that in France "Champagne is called the drink of complexion." It is his way of seducing young girls.

Just then Biff comes and sits with Happy. Happy introduces him to the girl presenting Biff as a great football player. The girl tells that she is Miss Forsythe. She asks about his team. Happy replies that he plays for the New York Giants. He introduces himself that he is Harold but at West Point people call him Happy. Happy asks Biff if he wants that girl but Biff is in search of Willy. Happy asks the girl if she is busy. She says that she has just to make a phone call. Happy asks her to come back soon.

Just after a while, Miss Forsythe returns with another girl named Letta. Happy asks Biff to enjoy himself with girls. After sometime both the brothers go with them leaving their father alone there.

Their Miseries

Biff and Happy suffer in their own miseries. Biff tells his brother Happy that he has taken twenty or thirty different kinds of job since he left home before the war but every time he has been unsuccessful He feels that he is only wasting his life in spite of being a man of thirty-four. Happy calls his brother a poet as well as an idealist. But Biff does not accept these epithets for himself. He thinks that Happy is fortunate and satisfied for he earns a lot.

Biff: Well, I spent six or seven years after High School trying to work myself up. Shipping, clerk, salesman, business of one kind or another. And it's a measly (inferior) manner of existence. To get on that subway on the hot morning in summer. To devote your whole life to keeping stock, or making phone calls, or selling or buying. To suffer fifty weeks of the year for the sake of a two week vacation, when all you really desire to be outdoors, with your shirt off. And always to have to get ahead of the next fella. And still that's how you build a future.

But Happy has his problems and he claims that he too is not happy.

Happy: All I can do now is to wait for merchandise manager to die. And suppose I get to be merchandise manager? He's a good friend of mine, and he just built a terrific estate on Long Island. And he lived there about two months and sold it, and now he's building another one. He can't enjoy it once it is finished. And I know that's just what I would do. I don't know what the hell

to light a very common problem from which almost every old man is suffering and that is of unemployed or unsettled grown-up children. Because of this an old person can never think of taking rest. He feels tired physically as well as mentally, yet works because he is still the only earning member in the family. Willy Loman faces this problem in his family. Biff is thirty four yet unsettled. Happy, the younger son too is not properly settled. The father hangs between life and death but the sons leave KITH alone to have fun with call girls. Thus they are representative of the careless, thoughtless and reckless modern generation.

Biff: An Over-protected Child

Biff is the elder son of Willy Loman. The father has very high expectation from him. But his blind affection spoils Biff. When Biff is a school going child there are reports against him. Young Bernard brings this fact in the notice of Willy that Biff is not serious in his study. In place of rebuking Biff for that, Willy encourages Biff to take Bernard's help in examination. He misguides Biff by saying:

Willy: That's just what I mean, Bernard can get the best marks in school, y'understand, but when he gets out in the business world, y'understand, you are going to be five times ahead of him. That's why I thank Almighty God you're both built like Adonises. Because the man who makes an appearance in the business world, one who creates personal interest, is the man who gets ahead. Be liked and you will never want. You take me for an instance. I never have to wait in line to see a buyer: 'Willy Loman is here!' That' all they have to know, and I go right through.

The result is that Biff is not even High School while Bernard practises in the Supreme Court in spite of his father' being well-to-do in business. Biff has become a thief. He has been in jail also. When Biff goes to ask for a job from Oliver, Biff steals his pen also and Oliver marks it. Biff confesses to his father:

Biff: Pop, I'm nothing! I'm nothing, Pop. Can you understand that? There is no spite in it any more. I'm just what I am, that's all.

Biff: Father's Favourite

Biff is his father's favourite who always hopes that on account of his impressive personality Biff may be successful. Willy asks him to remember that start big and end big.

Willy: Don't be so modest. You always started too low. Walk in with a big laugh. Don't look worried. Start off with a couple of your good stories to lighten things up. It's not what you say, it's how you say it-because personality always wins the day.

He asks Biff to change his presentation and learn how to impose his importance.

Willy: Like a young god. Hercules-something like that and the Sun, the Sun all around him. Remember how he waved to me? Right up from the field, with the representatives of three colleges standing by? And the buyers I brought, and the cheers when he came out-Loman, Loman, Loman! God Almighty, he'll be great yet. A star like that, magnificent, can never really fade away!

Biff and Happy: Mutual Understanding

Biff and Happy have a remarkable mutual understanding. Biff is thirty-four and Happy thirty-two. Biff is two years older than Happy. Biff is well built but these days he looks less self-secured. He has not succeeded much. Happy is tall and powerfully built. Sexuality appears on his face and many women have discovered it. He too is lost but he does not show defeat on his face. He is more confused and hard-skinned. He looks more satisfied. Happy works in a departmental store and has a separate

Her Clear-heartedness

Linda is a clear-hearted simple lady who does not believe in hiding any thing in the name of good manners or decency. When Willy comes back in the miserable stage of failing down and reports how his sons neglected him. They went away with girls leaving him alone in the restaurant; she boils within and rebukes Biff and Happy when they come back. She asks Biff if he cared for his father. He does not know if Willy is alive or dead. Happy calls Biff upstairs but he rebukes to go away. He asks his mother why she used that expression for the father. She scolds him to get out. She forbids him to go near him. Biff asks where he is. She asks them to leave the housewares.

Linda; You're a pair of animals! Not one, not another living soul would have had the cruelty to walk out on that man in a restaurant!

When Willy dies, Linda feels sorry on Willy's grave for not shedding tears. She feels as if he were on a business tour. She feels that Willy is not dead and he will come back. She knows that he committed suicide so that they might live happily with twenty-thousand dollars paid by the insurance company. She laments over his grave.

Linda: Willy, dear, I can't cry. Why did you do it? I search and search and I search, and I can't understand it. Willy. I made the last payment on the house today. Today, dear, And there'll be nobody home. We're free and clear. We're free.

Conclusion

Thus, Linda Loman impresses us as a faithful wife. She tries to keep her family united and therefore avoids those things and discussions that may be harmful to the unity. She never accuses her husband for flirting with a woman in Boston for she knows what is done is done and can't be undone. It is better to make efforts to prevent its repetition. She keeps him happy by supporting his view-points. When he points out how the natural beauty of the locality is spoiled she says there is left no place to move somewhere.

Q. 11. Write brief character sketches of Biff and Happy.

Or

Q. 12. Account for the importance of Biff and Happy in the development of the play.

Ans. Character Sketches: Biff and Happy

Introduction

Arthur Miller's 'Death of a Salesman' is a heart touching story of Willy a salesman who works hard to promote Wagner's Company and the owner Mr. Wagner recognises him highly. He has been working for them for thirty-four years. But now the story takes a turn for Mr. Wagner is no more and his son Howard is more practical than sentimental. He has no regard for Willy Loman's service. Now he regards him a burden on the company for being old and outdated in the market, Willy is not able to promote business according to the expectation and requirement. Willy is dismissed. His sons Biff and Happy are still unemployed and unsettled. They are not in a position to support the family in any way. It tenses his mind and in utter hopelessness he finds a way out. Having borrowed money from a friend he deposits the instalment of his insurance policy, and commits suicide so that with twenty thousand dollars paid by the Insurance Company his sons might get settled.

Biff and Happy: Representative Characters

Biff and Happy represent a large section of modern generation living happily on the earnings of parents without contributing any thing on its own part. The play brings

But Loman knows that the young master has no regard of his past services. Linda tells Biff that Willy is dying. He has been trying to kill himself. Linda reminds him of his father's accidents and informs that according to the insurance inspector these were not accidents. She tells that there is a woman who reports that Willy had smashed the car deliberately. It makes Biff and Happy thoughtful. Biff assures to work sincerely.

Her Unifying attitude

Linda tries her best to keep the family united. She is aware of a sort of permanent tension between Willy and Biff. She has her own way of moulding her husband's attitude during common conversation. Willy feels hungry. He asks his wife to give something to eat. She offers to make a sandwich for him but he asks her only to bring milk for him. He asks about children. She says that they are sleeping. She tells they love each other.

Linda: It was so nice to see them shaving together, one behind the other, in the bathroom. And going out together. You notice? The whole house smells of shaving lotion.

Willy Loman remarks that a man pays off his whole life for his house but when he owns it there is none to live in for the children get settled somewhere else. She advises her husband not to lose temper with Biff. Loman protests saying that he only asked if he was earning any money. It is not losing of temper. She asks how he can make money. He calls Biff a moody boy. She claims that Biff admires his father very much. Willy Loman calls Biff a lazy man. He claims that Biff is lost because of his personal attractiveness. Willy resolves to talk to him in the morning and ask him to start job of selling. In that he can earn a lot in no time. In this way she removes the bitterness that exists in Willy's mind for Biff.

Her Guardian-ship

Linda acts as a true guardian to her sons. She tells them their faults also. When Willy is upset and speaks loudly she asks him to take rest. He falls asleep. Biff and Happy ask why Willy was so loud. They accuse Willey for-treating Charley. Linda rebukes them for being disrespectful to their father.

Linda: Then make Charley your father, Biff. You can't do that, can you? I don't say he's a great man. Willy Loman never made a lot of money. His name was never in the paper. He is not the finest character that ever lived. But he is a human being, and a terrible thing is happening to him. So attention must be paid. He's not to be allowed to fall into his grave like an old dog. Attention, attention must be finally paid to such a person. You called him crazy.

She claims that many people think his balance of mind is lost. But the only trouble with him is that he is exhausted. Happy confirms her view point.

Linda: A small man can be just as exhausted as a great man. He works for a company thirty-six years this march, opens up unheard of territories to their landmark, and now in his old age they take his salary away.

Happy says that he did not know it. Biff accuses the company owners for being ungrateful. Linda asks if Willy's sons are not ungrateful. When he was young and able to work they respected him. Now old friends, old buyers that loved him and gave him orders are no more. They are dead or retired. He used to make six or seven calls a day in Boston. Now he drives seven hundred miles with, his things from shop to shop but no one knows him. There is none to welcome him. He borrowed fifty dollars a week to pretend that it is his pay. It is her wisdom that she never let Willy know that she is in know of this fact.

no body takes him seriously and he fails as a salesman. He borrows fifty dollar every week from Charley but he is not ready to work with him at fifty dollar per week.

Conclusion

Despite all this he proves himself a great salesman for he sells his life. He commits suicide so that his family might get twenty thousand dollars. He dies with the hope:

Willy: Can you imagine that magnificence with twenty-thousand dollars in her pocket?

Willy claims that on receiving the mail Biff will be ahead of Bernard again. He gets success though after death.

Q. 9. Draw a character sketch of Linda Loman in Arthur Miller's 'Death of a Salesman'.

Or

Q. 10. Do you agree with the remark that Linda Loman is the picture of the ever-faithful wife: 'My husband right or wrong?'

Ans. Linda Loman

Introduction

Linda Loman is the picture of the ever-faithful wife: 'My husband right or wrong.' She is whole heartedly devoted to Willy Loman. It is her attitude that whatever Willy says is right whatever he does is justified. She never tries to tell him that his dreams are not only false but injurious to his mental health also. "

A Caring Wife

Linda is so caring wife that on her husband's sudden return she fears that something wrong is with Willy Loman. Early in the morning he starts for the business tour in his car. Soon he realizes that his mind is filled with past memories and he is unable to concentrate on driving. He comes back home and it surprises his wife Linda.

Linda: Why? What happened?

At this time she acts less like a wife but more like a caring-mother worried about her tender child who comes back from the school untimely. Willy replies that he is tired to death. He says that he couldn't drive for the car went on going off. Linda asks if the car is defective. He replies that he realized he is going sixty miles an hour but he does not remember the last five minutes. She fears that he needs new glasses but he tells that he sees all. She advises him to take an aspirin that will relieve him.

Want of Imagination

Linda suffers from want of imagination. Willy accounts for his mental problem but she tries to find out a physical cause for that. He clearly says he was going sixty miles an hour but he does not remember the last five minutes. An intelligent woman should be alarmed at this mental state of her husband for in this condition he may fall victim to any serious accident. She does not think about consulting a psychiatrist but fears that he needs new glasses but he tells that he sees all. He claims that strange thoughts fill his mind. Yet she advises him to take an aspirin that will relieve him. It is the utmost limit of her imagination that she fears he is over-tired and needs rest.

Her Sincerity

Linda is a sincere lady. She does not run after material gain and asks Willy to reduce his travelling. She advises him to tell his master that he will work in New York instead of New England but Loman claims that he is strong in New England. They do not need him in New York. She asks him to meet Howard regarding change in area.

Willy: Remember those two beautiful elm trees out there? When I and Biff hung the swing between them?

According to him the builder should be arrested for cutting down trees. He has massacred the sweet neighbourhood.

Willy: More and more I think of those days; Linda. This time of year it was lilac and wistaria. And then the peonies would come out, and the daffodils. What a fragrance in this room!

Even in utter disappointment he remembers to buy seeds of carrot in for his wife.

His High Sense of Self-respect

Willy has a high sense of self-respect. He is not ready to work in his friend's company for now they are friends and then they will be master and servant. This new relation will not be easy to maintain. In that condition he will lose not only job but the only friend also.

He points out that Willy is jealous. Willy promises Charley to pay his whole money. He keeps an account of that. He asks for fifty dollars to pay insurance. Willy takes money saying:

Willy: Funny, y' know? After all the highways, and the trains, and the appointments, and the years, you end up worth more dead than alive.

Willy claims that only Charley is his friend now.

A Dreamer

Willy is a dreamer. Dreams save his personality from being broken. Whenever he has a setback he is lost in dreams to draw strength. He dreams that Biff is a schoolboy again. His dead brother Ben talks to him. In these dreams he remembers his past misdeeds also. Willy is lost in the memory of an incident how he was flirting with a woman in Boston but child Biff had reached there. He saw him giving Linda's stockings to that woman and he cried bitterly. Just before his death Willy is lost in his memory and talks to Ben who invites him to go to forest for having diamonds. Willy tells Ben that everyman should add up to something. He recognizes how greatly his wife has suffered. He has for her a guaranteed twenty-thousand dollar policy of insurance. The money shall be paid to Linda after his death. Ben warns Willy if they do not honour the policy. He claims that they can not refuse. Ben calls it a cowardly thing. Willy admires his sons for their devotion to him and dies.

Love for Wife

Willy loves his wife very much. He calls her his foundation and support. It is true he flirts with a woman but that is a temporary phase otherwise he is devoted to her. She too feels thankful to him for he commits suicide to solve financial problems of his wife and the family. She laments over his grave.

Linda: Willy, dear, I can't cry. Why did you do it? I search and search and I search, and I can't understand it, Willy. I made the last payment on the house today. Today, dear. And there'll be nobody home. We're free and clear. We're free.

His Hard-working Attitude

Willy's hard-working attitude is remarkable. At the age of sixty he drives six to seven hundred miles in New England and then displays his things. He is not afraid of hard working but it pinches him that people do not take him seriously.

His Contradictory Attitude

It is a great problem with Willy that he suffers from contradictions. At one time he claims that Wagner Company depends on him and on the other he admits that now

Willy: If old man Wagner was alive I'd been in charge of New " York now! That man was a Prince, he was a masterful man. But that boy of his, that Howard, he don't appreciate. When I went north, the first time, the Wagner Company didn't know where new England was!

He does not try to improve his working but accuses others for ill treatment.

Willy's Disappointment

Willy is disappointed when Howard does not credit his past services. Willy meets Howard. Howard shows him a tape recorder that charms Willy. Just after a while Willy tells him his problem that he can't travel more. Howard asks what then he can do. Howard says that they do a road business. It is not possible without travelling. Willy reminds him that he is in the service of this company since Howard was a little child in his father's arms. Now he wants a favour. Willy asks him to give fifty dollars a week. But Howard says that business is business. Willy asks for forty dollars a week. Howard refuses for that. It irritates Willy.

Willy: I am talking about your father! There were promises made across this desk! You must n't tell me you have got people to see—I put thirty-four years into this firm, Howard, and now I can't pay my insurance! You can't eat the orange and throw the peel away—a man is not a piece of fruit.

Howard gives him a flat answer that he does not need his services any more. It shocks Willy and he shows his willingness to go to Boston, the place from where he was asking to be shifted. But Howard declares:

Howard: I don't want you to represent us. I've been meaning to tell you for a long time now.

Thus his dream that Wagner Company stands on his support is broken.

Willy's Love For Children

Willy loves his children very much. He has a sort of blind affection to Biff. Young Bernard brings this fact to the notice of Willy that Biff is not serious in his study. Willy encourages Biff to take Bernard's help in examination. He misguides Biff by saying:

Willy: That's just what I mean, Bernard can get the best marks in school, y'understand, but when he gets out in the business world, you understand, you are going to be five times ahead of him. That's why I thank Almighty God you're both built like Adonises. Because the man who makes an appearance in the business world, the one who creates personal interest, is the man who gets ahead. Be liked and you will never want. You take me for an instance. I never have to wait in line to see a buyer. 'Willy Loman is here!' That' all they have to know, and I go right through.

The result is that Biff is not even High School while Bernard practises in the Supreme Court in spite of his father' being well-to-do business. Biff has become a thief. He has been in jail also. When he goes to ask for a job from Oliver, Biff steals his pen also and Oliver marks it. Biff confesses to his father:

Biff: Pop, I'm nothing! I'm nothing, Pop. Can you understand that? There is no spite in it any more. I'm just what I am, that's all.

Yet Willy has no complaint against him and hopes that with twenty-thousand dollars in his pocket Biff will be better than Bernard.

His Love for Nature

Willy is a great lover of nature. He never forgets those days when there were trees and flowers around the house. He points it out to his wife Linda:

the bottom of society. He is merely a dreamer, an absent minded person who contradicts his own words and attracts our pity. He claims certain qualities also. He has self respect. Love for wife and children, a liking for nature and hard-working attitude. At last he proves his salesmanship also.

A Travelling Salesman

Willy Loman is a travelling salesman in Wagner Company. He is the central figure in the play. He has been working in the company for the last thirty-four years. He imagines that the company stands on his support. He works mainly in the New England territory. There was a time when he worked successfully. When he was young and able to work they liked him. Now old friends, old buyers that loved him and gave him orders are no more. They are either dead or retired. He used to make six or seven calls a day in Boston. Now he drives seven hundred miles with his things from shop to shop but no one knows him. There is none to welcome him.

A Pendulum: Hanging Between Past and Present

The story is told through the mind and memory of Willy Loman who all the time remains thinking of his glorious past that deals with incidents of 1928 and suffers in the present that is 1942.

The period of 1928 is full of joy and satisfaction. He is young and active. His sons Biff and Happy are children. The owner of the company Mr. Wagner admires his working and calls him a great support to his business.

The period of 1942 is full of grief and dissatisfaction. Now he is old and tired. The owner of the company dies and his son a young man Howard has no regard for his past services. It becomes impossible for Loman to work there. He is out of job and the children are grown up with their own ways.

The past represents hopes and dreams which turn sour in the present and Loman finds himself trapped in a critical situation. To be forgetful of his unpleasant present he begins to think about his glorious past.

A Tired Man: His Absent-mindedness

The play opens in Willy Loman's house. Early in the morning he starts for the business tour in his car. Soon he realizes that his mind is filled with past memories of the past. He is unable to keep his mind on driving. He comes back and it surprises his wife Linda.

Linda: Why? What happened?

He replies that he is tired to death. He says that he couldn't drive for the car went on going off. Linda asks if the car is defective. He replies that he realized he is going sixty miles an hour but he does not remember the last five minutes. She fears that he needs new glasses but he tells that he sees all. She advises him to take an aspirin that will relieve him. He claims that strange thoughts fill his mind. He becomes forgetful of his present. Happy tells Biff that in this way Willy will get his driving licence cancelled. He tells about his father's confusion that he stops at green light and starts at the red light. Biff thinks that Willy is colour blind. Happy remarks that Willy has the finest eye for colour in the business.

Willy's Escapism

Willy is a sort of escapist who wishes to be forgetful of present by thinking of present all the time. Linda advises Willy to tell his master that he will work in New York instead of New England but Loman claims that he is strong in New England. They do not need him in New York. She asks him to meet Howard regarding change in area. But Loman knows that the young master has no regard of his past services.

Illicit Relations

When people are far from family so often they take liberty of making illicit relations but when they are exposed before children grave problems are created. Willy had illicit relations with a woman in Boston who was present all naked in his room when boy Biff reaches there to meet his father. Willy sends her to the bath room and tells a false story that the woman has come to take bath for her room is being painted but Biff marks that Willy has given to her Linda's new stocking. He weeps bitterly and loses respect for him.

The World: A Market

The central idea of the play is that the whole world is like a market in which every body is a salesman: selling one thing or the other. Some sell their skill, some scholarship, some labour and some sincerity. To help Willy, Charley offers a job at fifty dollar a week but Willy refuses it saying that he is dismissed for he called Howard by name. It perhaps insulted Howard. Charley tells Willy:

Charley: Willy, when're you gonna realize that them things don't mean anything? You named him Howard, but you can't sell that. The only thing you got in this world is what you can sell. And the funny thing is that you're a salesman, and you don't know that.

Be Successful

The whole world is mad after success. Willy too wishes to be successful but fails in becoming a worthy salesman as well as a responsible father. All talk of success. Howard does not like him for now he is not successful. Charley refers to some Morgan who was not impressive but was liked for he did business well. He points out that Willy is jealous. Willy promises Charley to pay his whole money. He keeps an account of that. He asks for fifty dollars to pay insurance. Willy takes money saying:

Willy: Funny, y' know? After all the highways, and the trains, and the appointments, and the years, you end up worth more dead than alive.

But Willy proves himself the most able salesman. Willy sells himself. What he fails in earning as a Living man, he earns after death as payment from the insurance company.

Conclusion

Thus, Arthur Miller's 'Death of a Salesman' is a contemporary play that raises contemporary problems and shows how these problem lead a man to the tragic end. In the sense it is a contemporary tragedy. It deals with themes of contemporary importance.

Q. 6. Draw a character-sketch of Willy Loman.

Or

Q. 7. 'There is not much to like in Willy but there is much to pity.' Discuss.

Or

Q. 8. Account for the character of Willy Loman as the hero of the play.

Ans. Willy Loman: As The Hero

Introduction

Arthur Miller's 'Death of a Salesman' is the story of a salesman named Willy Loman. The name 'Willy' suggests a man of his own will but 'Loman' sounds like a low man. It is true to some limit for he lives in his own world under the illusion that he the most successful salesman while the reality is otherwise. He believes that his son Biff will surpass his friend Bernard but that too is not reality. In reality Willy is at

Willy meets Howard. Howard shows him a tape recorder that charms Willy. Just after a while Willy tells him his problem that he can't travel more. Howard asks what then he can do. Howard says that they do a road business. It is not possible without travelling. Willy reminds him that he is in the service of this company since Howard was a little child in his father's arms. Now he wants a favour. Willy asks him to give fifty dollars a week. But Howard says that business is business. Willy asks for forty dollars a week. Howard refuses for that. It irritates Willy.

Willy: I am talking about your father! There were promises made across this desk! You must n't tell me you have got people to see-I put thirty-four years into this firm, Howard, and now I can't pay my insurance! You can't eat the orange and throw the peel away-a man is not a piece of fruit.

Howard makes him a flat answer that he does not need his services. It shocks Willy and he shows his willingness to go to Boston, the place from where he was asking to be shifted. But Howard declares:

Howard: I don't want you to represent us. I've been meaning to tell you for a long time now.

Thus, Willy suffers from a deep sense of neglect. He expected to be a member of the company on account of his great contribution to its development but now Howard is not ready to permit him even to work in Boston on commission basis. It breaks his heart. He feels his life has become a burden to all. Thinking it he loses interest in living.

Unemployed or Unsettled Grown-up Children

The play brings to light a very common problem from which almost every old man is suffering and that is of unemployed or unsettled grown-up children. Because of the old person can never think of taking rest. He feels tired physically as well as mentally, works because he is still the only earning member in the family. Willy Loman suffers from this in his family. Biff is thirty four yet unsettled. Happy, the younger son too is not properly settled. The father hangs between life and death but the sons leave him alone to have fun with call girls.

Blind Affection to Children

The play attracts attention to the problem of blind affection to children. As it happens in this play. Young Bernard brings this fact in the notice of Willy that Biff is not serious in his study. Willy encourages Biff to take Bernard's help in examination. He misguides Biff by saying:

Willy: That's just what I mean, Bernard can get the best marks in school, y'understand, but when he gets out in the business world, y'understand, you are going to be five times ahead of him. That's why I thank Almighty God you're both built like Adonises. Because the man who makes an appearance in the business world, the one who creates personal interest, is the man who gets ahead. Be liked and you will never want. You take me for an instance. I never have to wait in line to see a buyer. 'Willy Loman is here!' That' all they have to know, and I go right through.

The result is that Biff is not even High School while Bernard practises in the Supreme Court in spite of his father's well-to-do business. Biff has become a thief. He has been in jail also. When he goes to ask for a job from Oliver, Biff steals his pen also and Oliver marks it. Biff confesses to his father:

Biff: Pop, I'm nothing! I'm nothing, Pop. Can you understand that? There is no spite in it any more. I'm just what I am, that's all.

Apartment—Houses,

The first problem raised in the play is regarding apartment houses. The way in which multi-storied housing complexes are growing near every big city in our country we can't say that it is a problem confined to America. All the big cities have swallowed the old existing hundreds of villages. The mud houses are replaced by town-ships with independent markets and theatres. But in reality, people live in them like bees in hives. The condition of labour colonies is too miserable to discuss. Willy remark:

Willy: The street is lined with cars. There's not a breath of fresh air in the neighbourhood. The grass don't grow any more, you can't raise a carrot in the backyard. They should have had a law against apartment houses. Remember those two beautiful elm trees out there? When I and Biff hung the swing between them?

According to him the builder should be arrested for cutting down trees. He has massacred the sweet neighbourhood.

Willy: More and more I think of those days, Linda. This time of year it was lilac and wistaria. And then the peonies would come out, and the daffodils. What a fragrance in this room!

Over-crowded Cities

All the cities are over-crowded for villages have only agriculture in which an educated youngman takes no interest. It is the result of mass-education. Linda says in past people had some place to move somewhere. Willy points out that the number of people has increased horribly.

Willy: There's more people! That's what's ruining the country! Population is getting out of control. The competition is maddening! Smell the stink from that apartment house! And another one the other side..... How they whip cheese?

The other problem created by it is the need of long driving that tires the person more when the visit proves fruitless. It happens with Willy that he drives hundreds of miles to cover his business in New England but people do not respond him positively now it strains his mind negatively. Mostly people are overtired on account of it.

The State of Being Neglected

The problem of being neglected is very serious. Willy faces it as a tragedy of our time disrespectful to their father. She doesn't say that Willy is a great man. In fact Willy Loman never made a lot of money. His name was never in the paper. He is not the finest character that ever lived. But he is a human being, and a terrible thing is happening to him. So attention must be paid. He's not to be allowed to fall into his grave like an old dog. Attention must be finally paid to such a person. They should not call him crazy. She claims that many people think his balance of mind is lost. But the only trouble with him is that he is exhausted. Happy confirms her view point.

Linda: A small man can be just as exhausted as a great man. He works for a company thirty-six years this march, opens up unheard of territories to their landmark, and now in his old age they take his salary away.

Happy says that he did not know it. Biff accuses the company owners for being ungrateful. Linda asks if Willy's sons are not ungrateful. When he was young and able to work they greeted him. Now old friends, old buyers that loved him and gave him orders are no more. They are dead or retired. He used to make six or seven calls a day in Boston. Now he drives seven hundred miles with his things from shop to shop but no one knows him. There is none to welcome him.

1938 proved very auspicious to him. On the one hand he graduated and on the other won The Theatre Guild National Award for *They Ton Arise*. The coming eight years, he passed in great business, both in jobs and as a writer. It is true, his first commercially successful play, *All My Sons* was staged in 1947. The play brought him the New York Drama critics Circle Award. In 1948 he wrote his celebrated play *Death Of A Salesman*. He completed the play only in six weeks though he had been thinking of the play for ten years. *Death Of A Salesman* received the Pulitzer Prize for theatre.

Chronology of Important Dates

Year	Achievements
1915	Birth-Oct. 17; Manhattan
1929	Financial crisis-family moved to Brooklyn, New York.
1936-37	Hopwood Awards in Drama for 'Honours Of Dawn' and 'No Villain'.
1938	Graduated from University of Michigan; Theatre Guild National Award.
1944	Theatre Guild National Award.
1947	'All My Sons', New York Drama Critics' Circle Award
1949	'Death Of A Salesman'; Pulitzer Prize,
1953	"The Crucible"; Antoinette Perry Award.
1959	Gold Medal for Drama.
1965	Elected President of the P.E.N. International Literary Organization.
1968	The Price.
1977	The Archbishop's Ceiling.
1980	The American Clock.
1987	Autobiography entitled <i>Time Bends: A Life</i> .
2005	Breathed his last.

Q 2. Discuss Arthur Miller's 'Death of A Salesman' as a contemporary play.

Or

Q. 3. Account for the problems raised in Arthur Miller's *Death of a Salesman*.

Or

Q. 4. Discuss Arthur Miller's 'Death of a Salesman' as a contemporary tragedy.

Or

Q. 5. Discuss the themes of the play 'Death of a Salesman'

Ans. Themes Of The Play: 'Death Of A Salesman'

Introduction: A Tragedy of Our Time

Arthur Miller's *Death of a Salesman* is a tragedy of our time. The characters, their situations and language they speak all belong to us. When we read *Oedipus* we feel a bit of difficulty for we are not Athenians. With *Othello* the problem is that we are not Elizabethans but with this play, it does not affect us that we are not Americans for the problems raised in the play are as vital before us as are faced by the characters in the play.

on your hat, and you're finished. Nobody dast blame this man. A salesman is got to dream, boy. It comes with the territory.

Charley pays tribute to Willy in these words. According to him no body should blame Willy for being an unsuccessful salesman. For a salesman there is no limit of territory. He is allowed to whatever he can sell. He is neither a mechanic to mend things nor a doctor to treat or a lawyer to point out a law. He is a man showing dreams that what he sells is supreme. He wins on other's smile. When he does not get smile, his salesmanship faces danger to its existence. When Willy found he was not able to sell other things he sold what he could sell quite easily though it was his own life. Willy sells himself. What he fails in earning as a living man, he earns after death as payment from the insurance company.

Willy Appreciated

Happy has something different to tell others about his father.

Happy: All right, boy. I'm gonna show you and everybody else that Willy Loman did not die in vain. He had a good dream. It's the only dream you can have-to come out number-one man. He fought it out here, and this is where I 'm gonna win it for him.

With the money paid by the insurance company Linda makes the payment of the last instalment due for the house. Now they become free.

Linda; Willy, dear, I can't cry. Why did you do it? I search and search and I search, and I can't understand it, Willy. I made the last payment on the house today. Today, dear and there'll be nobody home. We're free and clear. We're free.

Linda feels sorry on Willy's grave for not shedding tears. She feels as if he were on a business tour. She feels that Willy is not dead and he will come back. She knows that he committed suicide so that they might live happily with twenty-thousand dollars paid by the insurance company. It is his last deal in which he sold himself at a very high cost. He proved himself an expert salesman. Thus the whole story ends with a strong note of dramatic irony that in this commercial world a man alive is cheaper than a man dead. When Willy was alive nobody was ready to pay him even a dollar but when he died he was paid twenty- thousand, do liars.

Questions For Long Answer

Q. 1. Account for life and works of Arthur Miller.

Ans. Arthur Miller

Arthur Miller was born on 17th October, 1915, in the Harlem section of Manhattan in New York in a Jewish family. His father was once a prosperous manufacturer and his mother too was daughter of a manufacturer. When their prosperity disappeared, Arthur's mother became a teacher in a public school. Arthur too was educated in it.

His own life is no less romantic then a fiction it was his family's economic ruin that Arthur usually rose at 4.30 a.m. to deliver bread for local bakery before attending his classes. He could never attend classes as a regular student for he had to earn by doing part-time jobs. The result was that he failed in many subjects. He had a natural liking for sports.

Having completed his schooling in Brooklyn, he worked in an automobile parts warehouse and held several other jobs of the same kind. In 1934, he joined Journalism at the University of Michigan. During the- course, he wrote plays and succeeded in winning some awards for them, Honours at Dawn (1936) and No Villain (1937).

Linda asks Biff if he cared about his father. He does not know if Willy is alive or dead. Happy calls Biff upstairs but he rebukes to go away. He asks his mother why she used that expression for the father. She scolds him to get out. She forbids him to go near him. Biff asks where he is. She asks them to go to their whores.

Linda: You're a pair of animals! Not one, not another living soul would have had the cruelty to walk out on that man in a restaurant!

Biff decides to hide nothing from his father and tells him that he has tried his luck every where but failed in getting a proper job. He tells that he has been in jail also.

Biff: Pop, I'm nothing! I'm nothing, Pop. Can you understand that? There is no spite in it any more. I'm just what I am, that's all.

Willy's Talk To Ben

Willy is lost in his memory and talks to Ben who invites him to go to forest for having diamonds. Willy tells Ben that everyman should add up to something. He recognizes how greatly his wife has suffered. He has for her a guaranteed twenty-thousand dollar policy of insurance.

Willy imagines he is talking to his dead brother Ben that is suggestive of Willy's own thinking. He feels consoled with the thought that after his death his wife Linda will not suffer for the insurance policy will pay her twenty thousand dollars. Willy tells Ben that it will be his contribution to the family. He claims that it's a guaranteed twenty-thousand-dollar proposal. It suggests how Willy has proved that he is a remarkable salesman. At last he has sold himself for twenty-thousand-dollar.

Willy: What a proposition, ts, ts. Terrific, terrific. Caud she's suffered, Ben, the woman has suffered. You understand me? A man can's go out the way he came in, Ben, a man has got to add up to something. You can't, you can't. You gotta consider, now. Don't answer so quick. Remember, it's a guaranteed twenty-thousand-dollar preposition.

The money shall be paid to Linda after his death. Ben warns Willy if they do not honour the policy.

Ben: You don't want to make a fool of yourself. They might not honour the policy.

Willy; How can they dare refuse? Didn't I work like a coolie to meet every premium on the nose? And now they don't pay off! Impossible!

He claims that they can not refuse.

Willy: Oh, Ben, that's the whole beauty of it! I see it like a diamond, shining in the dark, hard and rough, that I can pick up and touch in my hand.

Ben calls it a cowardly thing. Willy admires his sons for their devotion to him and dies.

Requiem

Charley's Sympathy

Charley asks Linda to go home for it is getting dark in the graveyard. Biff too requests her to take some rest. Charley says that it was a nice funeral. Linda asks about other people who know him.

Biff says to Charley that Willy did not know who he was. Charley remarks:

Charley: Nobody dast blame this man. You don't understand; Willy was a salesman. And for a salesman, there is no rock bottom to the life. He don't put a bolt to a nut, he don't tell you the law or give you medicine. He is a man way out there in the blue, riding on a smile and a shoeshine. And when they start not smiling back-that is an earthquake. And then you get yourself a couple of spots

introduces himself that he is Harold but at West Point people call him Happy. Happy asks Biff if he wants that girl but Biff is in search of Willy. Happy asks the girl if she is busy. She says that she has just to make a phone call. Happy asks her to come back soon.

Biff tells Happy that he wants to say something to Willy and wants Happy's help in that. Biff tells him that he met Oliver who neglected him. In anger he entered the office when none was there and took Oliver's pen.

Arrival of Willy

Happy and Biff are talking. Just then Willy comes. He asks if Biff is worried. Biff asks Stanley to bring double Scotch to all. Biff tells him that he was never a salesman but a clerk with Oliver. Willy asks them to forget past. He tells them that today he is dismissed. He asks Biff to tell about his meeting with Oliver. Biff asks Willy to tell why he was dismissed.

Willy leaves the company with a broken heart. His sons have invited him on lunch. He goes to them. He hopes to hear something of their success. He does not want to give the ill news of his dismissal to his wife. He recognizes her sacrifices and does not wish to grieve her more. He asks Biff not to delay in telling about his success. The poor man does not know that his stupid son Biff has nothing good to tell him. Biff does not want to tell it directly to his father that in spite of meeting his friend Bill Oliver he has not succeeded in getting a job. He tells Willy that he has a plan to make money without delay. But Willy has no patience to hear such things and Biff has no courage to tell him the truth.

Willy: I was fired, and I'm looking for a little good news to tell your mother, because the woman has waited and the woman has suffered. The gist of it is that I haven't got a story left in my head, Biff. So don't give me lecture about facts and aspects.

But Willy asks what sort of welcome Oliver gave to him. Biff again diverts the talk by asking if Howard did not permit him to work on commission basis. Willy says that he is out but if Oliver gave a warm welcome. Willy does not seem to give him a chance to tell the truth but when he comes to know that Biff took Oliver's pen, he is so upset that he can't remain sitting. His heart is broken,

Another Call Girl

Just after a while, Miss Forsythe returns with another girl named Letta. Boys introduce them to their father. They admire Willy for being a friendly father. Happy asks Biff to enjoy himself with girls. Biff asks him to do something to save Willy who is going to kill himself.

Willy: Lost in the Memory

Willy is lost in the memory of an incident how he was flirting with a woman in Boston but child Biff had reached there. He saw him giving Linda's stockings to that woman and he cried bitterly.

When Willy recovers from memory he finds himself alone. Stanley tells him that boys have gone with girls saying that they will meet him at home. Stanley asks if he should help him. He informs that Happy has made the payment for drink. Willy gives him a coin as reward and asks if there is a seed store, *lie* wants to buy seeds of carrots, peas-...., Stanley tells about a hardware store but fears that it may be closed by now.

Happy & Biff at Home

Happy and Biff reach home. Happy has a branch of roses. Happy asks about Willy and enquires if he is sleeping. Linda asks where they had been. Happy says that they met two girls. They have brought some flowers for her to keep in her room.

the old Wagner has promised to make Willy a member of the company. In fact he is talking to himself at this time. In his memory he talks to many people.

Visit to Charley's Office

When Willy comes back to senses he goes to Charley's office. The Secretary Jenny attends him. There he talks to Bernard who is a mature man now. Bernard asks about Biff. Willy tells a lie that Biff is doing big business in West but now he intends to be established here. Bernard says that he is in hurry for his Washington train leaves in a few minutes. Still he points out why Biff failed everywhere.

By the time Charley enters. He offers a job at fifty dollar a week but Willy refuses it saying that he has a good job. Charley tells him that a job without salary is useless. But Willy is not ready to work with him. Willy says that he can't tell it. He tells Charley that Howard has dismissed him for he called him Howard. Charley tells Willy:

Charley- Willy, when're you gonna realize that them things don't mean anything? You named him Howard, but you can't sell that. The only thing you got in this world is what you can sell. And the funny thing is that you're a salesman, and you don't know that.

Charley's Suggestion to Willy

Charley asks Willy not to be sentimental but realize the truth that Howard has dismissed him not because of any personal cause but purely a commercial cause that now Howard is not satisfied with his work. Willy is not able to promote the business. He is not able to sell things. It is not important whether he calls him by personal name or any other name. Howard is a pure businessman who wants business. If you can't sell things you are not fit to be a salesman. Charley asks Willy to think over the problem objectively and decide what he can sell in the world and should start selling that thing. Taking hint from Charley's practical advice Willy sells himself. What he fails in earning as a living man, he earns after death as payment from the insurance company.

Charley refers to some Morgan who was not impressive but was liked for he did business well. He points out that Willy is jealous. Willy promises Charley to pay his whole money. He keeps an account of that. He asks for fifty dollars to pay insurance. Willy takes money saying:

Willy: Funny, y' know? After all the highways, and the trains, and the appointments, and the years, you end up worth more dead than alive.

Willy claims that only Charley is his friend now.

Arrival of Call girls

Happy is talking to Stanley. Just then a girl comes and sits in a nearby chair. Happy and Stanley watch her. The look after a sort of restaurant. Stanley asks the girl if he should bring a menu. She replies that she is waiting for someone but she would like to have a..... Happy asks Stanley to bring her champagne. He introduces himself as a seller of champagne, She feels obliged to him. He says it's all company money. He flatters her saying that her face deserves to be on a magazine cover. Stanley conforms his idea. But the girl claims that she has been on the cover page of many magazines. She pays thanks while taking the drink. Happy remarks that in France "Champagne is called the drink of complexion."

Arrival of Biff

Just then Biff comes and sits with Happy. Happy introduces him to the girl presenting him as a great football player. The girl tells that she is Miss Forsythe. She asks about his team. Happy replies that he plays for the New York Giants. He

Willy: Like a young god, Hercules-something like that, and the Sun, the Sun all around him. Remember how he waved to me? Right up from the field, with the representatives of three colleges standing by? And the buyers I brought, and the cheers when he came out-Loman, Loman, Loman! God Almighty, he'll be great yet. A star like that, magnificent, can never really fade away!

Willy feels tired and does not wish to talk any more. Linda asks him to talk to Howard to let him work in New York. He says that all will be well by tomorrow morning.

Act II

Willy's Dream

Willy is taking coffee. He looks very calm for both the sons have gone together for work. He dreams how he will get his sons married. They will visit him on weekends.

Linda's Suggestion

Linda asks if Willy will talk to Howard today. He assures her for that. Linda suggests him to ask for some insurance advance also. She accounts for so many expenses that have been pending. They are related to refrigerator, and car. Linda asks him to be careful.

Meeting with Howard

Willy meets Howard. Howard shows him a tape recorder that charms Willy. Just after a while Willy tells him his problem that he can't travel more. Howard asks what then, he can do. Howard says that they do a road business. It is not possible without travelling. Willy reminds him that he is in the service of this company since Howard was a little child in his father's arms. Now he wants a favour. Willy asks him to give fifty dollars a week. But Howard says that business is business. Willy asks for forty dollars a week. Howard refuses for that. It irritates Willy.

Willy: I am talking about your father! There were promises made across this desk! You must n't tell me you have got people to see-! put thirty-four years into this firm, Howard, and now I can't pay my insurance! You can't eat the orange and throw the peel away—a man is not a piece of fruit.

Willy Loman talks to Howard regarding his problem that now long driving troubles him. Howard does not pay attention to him saying he has to attend some other people. It irritates Willy. He claims that he has some rights in the company for he has been serving in it for thirty-four years and Mr. Wagner had made some promises with him. He requests Howard to realize his misery that now his earnings are reduced to this limit that he is not able to pay even his insurance. He devoted his youth in the promotion of the company. He reminds that in 1929 his commission was one hundred and seventy dollars a week. Now he is old and the company should pay him salary. He is not an orange that the fruit is eaten but the peel thrown away.

Willy's Dismissal

Howard makes him a flat answer that he does not need his services. It shocks Willy and he shows his willingness to go to Boston, the place from where he was asking to be shifted. But Howard declares:

Howard: I don't want you to represent us. I've been meaning to tell you for a long time now.

When Howard does not pay attention to his request, Willy is lost in memories. He begins to talk to Ben about Alaska ?..l. Ben invites him to work with him in Timberland. Willy is ready to work there with his sons. Linda asks him not to go for

Wagner knew that area. It was Willy's labour that made this mark popular there. It is an irony of fate that now the same company is not ready to value him. Howard has no regard for Willy Loman's service. Now he regards him a burden to the company for being old and outdated in the market, Willy is not able to promote business according to the expectation and requirement therefore now they do not pay him salary but force him to work on commission basis.

Injustice to Willy

Happy says that he did not know it. Biff accuses the company owners for being ungrateful. Linda asks if Willy's sons are not ungrateful.

Linda blames her sons for being worse than animals if that term is proper to be used for Willy's employers. When Willy was young and smart, he used to travel continuously to promote their business. They valued him highly. Now Willy is old and weak and they regard him as a burden. If they do so, there may be an excuse that they are businessmen having no emotional relation with Willy. But what about his sons who are his own blood. It is a great misery that they have no respect for Willy who used to weave dreams of their success. Willy is out of market for those men who knew him are either dead or retired. Now he visits the market but no one welcomes him. At home he is neglected for now he is not a source of income.

Linda: Are they any worse than his sons? When he brought them business, when he was young, they were glad to see him. But now his old friends, the old buyers that loved him so and always found some order to hand him in a pinch-they're all dead, retired.

When he was young and able to work they liked him. Now old friends, old buyers that loved him and gave him orders are no more. They are either dead or retired. He used to make six or seven calls a day in Boston.

Linda: He drives seven hundred miles, and when he gets there no one knows him any more, no one welcomes him. And what goes through a man's mind, driving seven hundred miles home without having earned a cent? Why shouldn't he talk to himself?

Linda tells Biff that Willy borrowed fifty dollars to pretend that it is his pay. He has been trying to kill himself. Linda reminds him of his father's accidents and informs that according to the insurance inspector these were not accidents. She tells that there is a woman who reports that Willy had smashed the car deliberately. It makes Biff and Happy thoughtful.

Biff's Resolution

Biff assures to work sincerely. Happy tells that Biff lost a job because he used to whistle a song in the lift. It is not expected from a gentle responsible man. Biff says it is his private liberty. He is ready to be a carpenter for a carpenter can whistle. But Willy objects saying that it is a low work. According to Willy Biff can succeed in the supply of sporting goods.

Happy's Suggestion

Happy extends the idea by suggesting that they may make two teams and arrange their matches. It will give money and recognition. Willy approves the idea and asks them to remember that start big and end big.

Willy: Don't be so modest. You always started too low. Walk in with a big laugh. Don't look worried. Start off with a couple of your good stories to lighten things up. It's not what you say, it's how you say it-because personality always wins the day.

He asks Biff to change his presentation and impose his importance.

Linda: Then make Charley your father, Biff. You can't do that, can you? I don't say he's a great man. Willy Loman never made a lot of money. His name was never in the paper. He is not the finest character that ever lived. But he is a human being, and a terrible thing is happening to him. So attention must be paid. He's not to be allowed to fall into his grave like an old dog. Attention, attention must be finally paid to such, a person. You called him crazy.

Miller is a social writer who through his plays and characters, brings to light a social evil that grown up children do not wish to be attentive and respectful to their old parents. Linda rebukes her sons for disrespecting their father. She admits that Willy has never been very rich or very successful. His name was never highlighted in newspapers for he was an ordinary man. He is not an ideal man but a common human being. But now he is suffering from tension and disappointment. To get rid of that he begins to think about his past when he was successful. He talks to himself and people regard him as a mad man. In this condition it is the responsibility of the family to arouse the sense of security in him and be attentive to him.

Linda's Rebuking

Linda asks Biff to pay proper respect to his father who remains anxious of his future. She tells that now Willy too has grown old and weak. He is not fit to work hard. She points out how Willy used to be happy on hearing that Biff was coming home. All the time he used to talk about Biff's future. But on Biff's arrival his joyfulness used to disappear. It shocked him greatly that Biff was not doing worth while. He wanted to guide Biff's ways but unfortunately the stupid son was not ready to believe in what Willy said. Note of universality is very sharp for no son, believes in what his father says.

Linda: When you write you are coming. He is all smiles, and talks about the future, and-he's just wonderful. And then the closer you seem to come, the more shaky he gets, and then, by the time you get here, he's arguing, and he seems angry at you.

If he is treated disrespectfully he will go mad.

Linda does not approve Biff's neglecting behaviour to his father. With tearful eyes she points out that Willy is not a perfect man but to her he is the dearest man in the world for he is her husband. He has devoted his whole life in making her family. Now he is old and weak. It does not mean that they should regard him as a burden. She can bear it that Biff is all respectful to her but to Willy his behaviour is full of neglect. She asks Biff to decide if he is willing to live in this house or not. If he wishes to live here, he will have to respect his father.

Linda: He's the dearest man in the world to me, and I won't have anyone making him feel unwanted and low and blue. You've got to make up your mind now, darling there's no leeway any more. Either he's your father and you pay him that respect, or else you are not to come here.

She claims that many people think his balance of mind is lost. But the only trouble with him is that he is exhausted. Happy confirms her view point.

Linda: A small man can be just as exhausted as a great man. He works for a company thirty-six years this march, opens up unheard of territories to their landmark, and now in his old age they take his salary away.

Willy's Contribution to the Wagner Company

Linda accounts for Willy's contribution to the growth of Wagner Company. There was a time when the products of Wagner Company were not popular in New England. Neither the people of that area had heard the name of this company nor Mr.

Willy: Lost in His Memories

Now Willy is lost in his memories. Biff is a school going boy. His friend Bernard comes to ask him to study. Willy asks Biff to be serious in studies. Willy tells his sons that Bernard like men are not much liked in business. His sons approve his view point.

Willy: That's just what I mean, Bernard can get the best marks in school, y' understand, but when he gets out in the business world, y' understand, you are going to be five times ahead of him. That's why I thank Almighty God you're both built like Adonises. Because the man who makes an appearance in the business world, the one who creates personal interest, is the man who gets ahead. Be liked and, and you will never want. You take me for an instance. I never have to wait in line to see a buyer. 'Willy Loman is here!' That' all they have to know, and I go right through.

Miller is a social writer who, through his plays and characters, attracts attention to the problems of universal importance. Here Willy thinks about those past days when Biff's friend Bernard was serious in his studies and Willy used to call him a book worm. Willy was hopeful that on account of his impressive personality and social temper Biff will prove five times more successful than Bernard in practical life. But Willy's theory fails for in business too solid work is required. No body considers personality for what counts is solid profit. Business is business. In tough competition the margin of profit is reduced and only skilled people are successful.

It is calculated by the whole family that Willy is going to earn a lot as commission on his business. Linda presents before her husband a long list of expenses. After a while Willy tells his wife that he is facing a problem that people do not understand what he says but laugh at him. He feels he talks too much. He refers to another man Charley who talks little and people respect him. Linda remarks that it is his misunderstanding. He is the most handsome man in the world.

Willy finds Linda mending her old stockings. He asks her to throw that away and have a new one. Just then Bernard comes and asks if Biff is not studying. He warns that he will not be able to help Biff in examinations for it is a state exam and he will be arrested. Willy assures Bernard to whip Biff. Linda asks Willy to take back Biff's football. She reports that he is very rough with girls and all mothers are afraid of Biff. Willy supports Biff saying that Bernard is a book worm.

Willy sits alone talking to himself but Happy's arrival makes him conscious of the present. Willy tells Happy that he nearly hit a child that the incident has shocked him. It hurts him that he could not go with his brother to Alaska. Ben got great success and with him Willy too would have succeeded. Happy assures Willy to help him in retirement. It irritates Willy that Happy wishes to make him retired. Charley comes to meet Willy. They play cards. Charley asks if he has any trouble in his car. He offers Willy a job in California. Willy feels offended. He feels insulted though Charley only wishes to help him. Willy asks Biff why he wishes to go to Texas. Charley advises him to let the boy be free. Willy claims then there will be nothing left in his life.

Willy's Absent-mindedness

Willy talks to his brother Ben who is dead. Charley asks Willy not to call him Ben. When Willy realizes his mistake he says that Charley reminds Vim of his brother Ben. Ben talks about so many things while, infact, Willy is alone and he is talking about himself. Linda asks if he will take some cheese. It is very late. She asks him to go to bed. He falls asleep. Biff and Happy come to ask why Willy has been talking so loud. They accuse Willy for ill-treating Charley. Linda rebukes them for being disrespectful to their father.

unsettled. With this hope, he has come home perhaps here he should get a job. He feels that his whole life is wasted. He does not know what to do and where to go.

Happy calls his brother a poet as well as an idealist. But Biff does not accept these epithets for himself. He thinks that Happy is fortunate and satisfied for he earns a lot. But Happy has his problems and he claims that he too is not happy.

Happy : All I can do now is wait for merchandise manager to die. And suppose I get to be merchandise manager? He's a good friend of mine, and he just built a terrific estate on Long Island. And he lived there about two months and sold it, and now he's building another one. He can't enjoy it once it is finished. And I know that's just what I would do. I don't know what the hell I'm working for. Sometimes I sit in my apartment-all alone. And I think of the rent I am paying. And it's crazy. But then, it's what I always wanted. My own apartment, a car and plenty of women. And still, goddammit, I'm lonely.

Biff's Plan

Biff proposes him to work with Mm. They can buy a ranch, a large cattle-breeding establishment, and raise cattle. With their physical labour they can get great success in that. They begin to dream of grand success. They plan to be married on being prosperous. They intend to get girls of character like their mother. Happy says that the girl Charlotte who was with him that night is engaged to be married in five weeks.

Vain Dreams

Happy and Biff are lost in vain dreams. They hope to be highly prosperous in a short time. They discuss how they will like to be married at that time. At present they are mad after call girls. But their concept of a house wife is very traditional. They wish to have a girl of strong character to marry. In that matter their mother is their ideal. Happy declares to have a woman of strong character like their mother. Linda. Happy tells Biff about a call girl named Charlotte. She was with Happy just the last night. It is surprising that she is engaged to be married in five weeks. How that call girl will lead her married life with this stained past is uncertain. It is a bitter irony that so called modern youth who plead for free-sex wish to have a girl of strong character to be their wife.

Happy: I would! Somebody with character, with resistance! Like Mom, y' know? You're gonna call me a bastard when I tell you this. That girl Charlotte I was with tonight is engaged to be married in five weeks.

Biff asks Happy if he remembers Bill Oliver. Happy remarks that Oh'ver is a big businessman now. Biff claims that he had promised Biff to help in case of any need. Biff says he will borrow money from him to buy a ranch.

Biff has tried a number of jobs but every time he has got only failure. Still he thinks in stupid ways. He does not begin a small business under the guidance of his father but hopes that Bill Oliver will give him thousands of dollars to be spent any where. He dreams if Bill Oliver gives him ten thousand or even seven thousand dollars he will buy a ranch. A ranch is a large cattle-breeding establishment that may prove to be a great source of income if the person is ready to work hard. It is Biffs vain dream that Bill Oliver may give him so much money.

Biff: I think I'll go to see him. If I could get ten thousand or even seven thousand dollars I could buy a beautiful ranch.

But he fears if Oliver still remembers that Biff had stolen a carton of Basketballs.

Just then Biff hears Willy's call to wash the engine. Happy talks to him about going on a date with a girl. Willy warns him not to make any promise to those girls.

money as much he wishes from his father but if the father tries to know about the son's education or career, the son takes it ill and reports it to the mother that his father has insulted him. Loman protests saying that he only asked if Biff was earning any money. It is not losing of temper. She asks how he can make money. He calls Biff a moody boy. She claims that Biff admires his father very much. Willy Loman calls Biff a lazy man. He claims that Biff is lost because of his personal attractiveness.

Biff a Bit Confused

Willy claims that it is the only defect with Biff that he is a bit confused. He does not know what to do, how to do and where to do. Feeling sympathy for Biff he remarks that for this misery not only Biff but some other factors also are responsible. America is the biggest country in the world with numberless options for a young man. Besides, Biff has such an impressive personality that I suggest him various ways to march on. It disturbs his concentration and in place of working hard in one direction, he changes his direction frequently. The result is that he stands firmly nowhere. He is not a lazy man but a confused man.

Willy: Biff Loman is lost. In the greatest country in the world a young man with such personal attractiveness, gets lost. And such a hard worker. There is one thing about Biff—he's not lazy.

Willy resolves to talk to him in the morning and ask him to start job of selling. In that he can earn a lot in no time. Willy promises his wife Linda that he will talk to Biff in the morning. He will like to guide him well to make his career. He thinks that a hard working man with an attractive personality may well be successful in the business of selling goods. It is such a profitable trade that Biff may be prosperous within no time. He knows his son Biff's talent of becoming popular among people. Willy remembers those past days when Biff was a school going child of high school. Numberless students were mad after him. For them he was a star. They waited to have a glimpse of his face. If he smiled on any of them, his face looked bright with joy and pride.

Willy: I'll see him in the morning; I'll have a nice talk with him. I'll get him a job of selling. He could be big in no time. My God! Remember how they used to follow him around in high school? When he smiled at one of them their faces lit up.

Willy Loman remembers how Biff was popular among his friends in his High School days. Linda says that she has made American cheese for him. It annoys him for he likes Swiss cheese. She says that she has made that just for change. He says that he does not want change. He asks why he is contradicted in all matters. Linda laughs. He asks her to open the window. With a great patience she says that it all is open.

Willy's Complaint

Willy complains against many things. Willy Loman's present is full of disappointment and defeat. His past was full of success and hope. To get rid of tension of the present he likes to think and talk about the past.

Willy: The street is lined with cars. There's not a breath of fresh air in the neighbourhood. The grass does not grow any more, you can't raise a carrot in the backyard. They should have had a law against apartment houses. Remember those two beautiful elm trees out there? When I and Biff hung the swing between them?

He curses the polluting atmosphere of the apartment houses at present. There is no sanitation and fresh air. He remembers those happy days in past when the houses were limited in number and there was sufficient open space, and fresh air. He used to

Willy replies that he is tired to death. He says that he couldn't drive for the car went on going off. Linda asks if the car is defective. He replies that he realized he is going sixty miles an hour but he does not remember the last five minutes. She fears that he needs new glasses but he tells that he sees all. She advises him to take an aspirin that will relieve him. He exclaims that strange thoughts fill his mind.

Mr. Wagner: Great Like a Prince

She advises him to tell his master that he will work in New York instead of New England but Loman claims that he is strong in New England. They do not need him in New York. She asks him to meet Howard regarding change in area. But Loman knows that the young master has no regard to his past services.

Willy: If old man Wagner was alive I'd been in charge of New York now! That man was a prince, he was a masterful man. But that boy of his, that Howard, he don't appreciate. When I went north the first time, the Wagner Company didn't know where new England was!

Thus, Willy Loman tells his wife that unfortunately Mr. Wagner is not alive. He was great like a prince and knew how to respect senior employees. Wagner's son Howard is not a good man. He has no respect for human relations. He gives no credit to Willy's past services. Willy accounts for his contribution to the growth of this company. There was a time when the products of Wagner Company were not popular in New England. Neither the people of that area had heard the name of this company nor Mr. Wagner knew that area. It was Willy's labour that made this mark popular there. It is an irony of fate that now the same company is not ready to value him.

Biff and Happy's Mischief

Willy asks his wife to give something to eat. She offers to make a sandwich for him but he asks her only to bring milk for him. He asks about children. She says that they are sleeping. She tells they love each other.

Linda: It was so nice to see them shaving together, one behind the other, in the bathroom. And going out together. You notice? The whole house smells of shaving lotion.

Infact, Linda wants to make her husband tension-free. She begins to tell about Biff and Happy's mischieves. They make fun in everything. According to her it is quite pleasing to see them shaving. They do it together. One stands behind the other. *Willy may mark how close they are to each other. They spill the shaving lotion more than they use.* The result is that the whole house smells of shaving lotion. Thus, Linda points out the unity of the family to ensure Willy that he should not worry for his sons who are young and friendly. She passes satire on their carelessness too. She wishes that Willy should think about family more than business.

The Children

Willy Loman remarks that a man pays off his whole life for his house but when he owns it there is none to live in as the children get settled somewhere else. She advises her husband not to lose temper with Biff.

Willy does not approve his wife's charge that he behaves ill with his elder son Biff. Willy claims that he never loses his temper while talking to Biff. As a guardian it is his duty to know about his elder son's career. He made only a natural query about his earnings. It is no criticism of a young man. If he takes it as his insult the wrong is not with Willy's behaviour but Biffs lack of understanding.

Willy: When the hell did I lose my temper? I simply asked him if he was making any money. Is that a criticism?

Arthur Miller is a realistic dramatist. What he points out in reference to Willy's family is a universal problem. Every young man thinks it is his right to demand

Jenny

She is Charley's secretary.

4.3. ACT-WISE CRITICAL SUMMARY ACT I

A Short Play

Arthur Miller's 'Death of a Salesman' is a short play in two acts, followed by a Requiem that is a dirge, solemn chant etc., for the repose of the dead. Miller does not divide the action into scenes but according to scholars Act I can be divided into eleven scenes and Act II into fourteen scenes.

Opening of the Play

Arthur Miller writes a comprehensive stage direction to throw light on the action of the play. On the stage from the right, Willy Loman the Salesman, enters, having two large sample cases. The flute plays on. He hears but is not aware of it. He is past sixty and dressed quietly. Even as he crosses the stage to the doorway of the house, he looks exhausted. He opens the door, comes into the kitchen, and thankfully gets off his burden. A word-sigh escapes his lips—it might be 'Oh, Boy, Oh, Boy'. He closes the door, then carries his cases out into the living-room, through the kitchen doorway. Linda, his wife, has stirred in her bed at the right. She gets out and puts on a robe, listening. Most often jovial, she has developed an iron repression of her exceptions to Willy's behaviour—she more than loves him, she admires him. His temper, his massive dreams and a little mercilessness don't trouble her.

Willy Loman: A Travelling Salesman

Willy Loman is a travelling salesman in Wagner Company. He is the central figure in the play. He has been working in the company for the last thirty four years. He imagines that the company stands on his support. He works mainly in the New England territory.

His Glorious Past

The story is told through the mind and memory of Willy Loman who all the time remains thinking of his glorious past that deals with incidents of 1928 and suffers in the present that is 1942.

The Period of 1928

The period of 1928 is full of joy and satisfaction. He is young and active. His sons Biff and Happy are children. The owner of the company admires his working and calls him a great support to his business.

The Period Of 1942

The period of 1942 is full of grief and dis-satisfaction. Now he is old and tired. The owner of the company dies and his son Howard, a young man has no regard for his past services. It becomes impossible for Loman to work there. He is out of job and the children are grown up with their different ways.

Trapped in a Critical Situation

The past represents hopes and dreams which turn sour in the present and Loman finds himself trapped in a critical situation.

Past Memories

The play opens in Willy Loman's house. Early in the morning he starts for the business tour in his car. Soon he realizes that his mind is filled with past memories and he is unable to concentrate on driving. He comes back and it surprises his wife Linda for she had never expected his return so soon.

Linda: Why? What happened?

- (c) sentimental comedy (d) trage-comedy
21. In a tragi comedy the hero is.....
(a) absolutely virtuous (b) absolutely wicked
(c) a brave man (d) a handsome man
22. In a tragi comedy the villain is.....
(a) absolutely virtuous (b) absolutely wicked
(c) a brave man (d) a handsome man
23. Who wrote The Hairy Ape?
(a) O'Neill (b) Shakespeare
(c) Bernard Shaw (d) Christopher Marlowe
24. Which of the following is based on psychological relaism.
(a) Justice (b) Julius Caesar
(c) As You Like It (d) Dr. Faustas
25. Which of the following is a revenge tragedy?
(a) Macbeth (b) Hamlet
(c) Justice (d) Dr. Faustas
26. What is the rank of the play 'Death of a Salesman'?
(a) a high class tragedy (b) a middle class tragedy
(c) a lower class tragedy (d) a romantic comedy
27. Which of the following forms of drama is not prescribed?
(a) comedy (b) dramatic monologue
(c) historical drama (d) trage-comedy
28. Beaumont and Fletcher popularized with the production of 'Philaster' in 1610
(a) comedy (b) tragedy
(c) historical play (d) trage-comedy

ANSWERS

1. (a) 2. (b) 3. (b) 4. (a) 5. (d) 6. (a) 7. (c) 8. (d) 9. (b) 10. (a)
11. (b) 12. (a) 13. (c) 14. (b) 15. (b) 16. (a) 17. (b) 18. (c) 19. (a) 20. (c)
21. (a) 22. (b) 23. (c) 24. (a) 25. (b) 26. (c) 27. (b) 28. (d)

- (c) Pure (d) Romantic
6. In a Classical tragedy the hero fights against
 (a) Fate (b) Villain (c) Society (d) himself
 7. In a Social tragedy the hero fights against
 (a) Fate (b) Villain (c) Society (d) himself
 8. In a Psychological tragedy the hero fights against ...
 (a) Fate (b) Villain (c) Society (d) himself
 9. In a Romantic tragedy the hero fights against....
 (a) Fate (b) Villain (c) Society (d) himself
 10. Shakespeare's 'Julius Caesar' is based on
 (a) Roman history (b) English history
 (c) Irish history (d) French history
 11. Shakespeare's 'Richard III' is based on
 (a) Roman history (b) English history
 (c) Irish history (d) French history
 12. A Tragi-comedy has plot.
 (a) an improbable (b) a probable
 (c) a revenge (d) a pastoral
 13. What is the rank of the play 'Julius Caesar'?
 (a) comedy (b) tragedy
 (c) roman play (d) tragi comedy
 14. Shakespeare's 'Macbeth' is a.....
 (a) comedy (b) tragedy
 (c) roman play (d) tragi comedy
 15. Shakespeare's 'Hamlet' is a.....
 (a) comedy (b) tragedy
 (c) roman play (d) tragi-comedy
 16. Shakespeare's 'As You Like It' is a.....
 (a) comedy (b) tragedy
 (c) roman play (d) tragi-comedy
 17. Marlowe's 'Dr. Faustas' is a
 (a) comedy (b) tragedy
 (c) roman play (d) tragi-comedy
 18. Bernard Shaw's 'Saint Joan' is a
 (a) comedy (b) tragedy
 (c) historical play (d) tragi-comedy
 19. Modern historical plays are composed in the style of
 (a) allegory (b) tragedy
 (c) roman play (d) tragi-comedy
 20. Tearful comedy is called.....also.
 (a) romantic comedy (b) tragedy

Pulitzer Prize, 1928) O'Neill tried to expose the way in which hidden psychological processes bear impact upon outward actions. The play was revolutionary in style and length in the sense that by using techniques new to the modern theatre of spoken asides or soliloquies the dramatist expresses the characters' inner thoughts. His most ambitious work is the trilogy *Mourning Becomes Electra* (1931), was a successful attempt to re-create the power and profundity of the ancient Greek tragedies by setting the themes and plot of the classical tragedy *Oresteia* by Aeschylus in 19th-century New England. The play brings to light Oedipus complex as well as the theme of incest. *Ah, Wilderness* (1932) was written in a relatively light mood and it too was highly successful. O'Neill's other notable plays are *Moon of the Caribbees* (1918), *Anna Christie* (1921; Pulitzer Prize, 1922), *All God's Chillun Got Wings* (1924), *Desire Under the Elms* (1924), *The Great God Brown* (1926), *Lazarus Laughed* (1926), *Marco Millions* (1928), *Dynamo* (1929), and *Days Without End* (1934). After 1939 he wrote three other plays. *The Iceman Cometh* (1946) is the most notable among them. It portrays a group of "drunkards who are unable to live without illusion. O'Neill was awarded the 1936 Nobel Prize for Literature.

Arthur Miller

Arthur Miller was born on 17th October, 1915, in the Harlem section of Manhattan in New York in a Jewish family. His father was once a prosperous manufacturer and his mother too was daughter of a manufacturer. When their prosperity disappeared, Arthur's mother became a teacher in a public school. Arthur was educated in it. His own life is no less romantic than a fiction. It was his family's economic ruin that Arthur usually rose at 4.30 a.m. to deliver bread for local bakery before attending his classes. He could never attend classes as a regular student for he had to earn by doing part-time jobs. The result was that he failed in many subjects. He had a natural liking for sports. Having completed his schooling in Brooklyn, he worked in an automobile parts warehouse and held several other jobs of the same kind. In 1934, he joined Journalism at the University of Michigan. During the course, he wrote plays and succeeded in winning some awards for them, Honours at Dawn (1936) and No Villain (1937). 1938 proved very auspicious to him. On the one hand he graduated and on the other won The Theatre Guild National Award for *They Too Arise*. The coming eight years, he passed in great business, both in jobs and as a writer. It is true, his first commercially successful play, *All My Sons* was staged in 1947. The play brought him the New York Drama critics Circle Award. In 1948 he wrote his celebrated play *Death of a Salesman*. He completed the play only in six weeks though, he had been thinking of the play for ten years. *Death of a Salesman* received the Pulitzer Prize for theatre.

Objective Questions

- Comedies by Shakespeare are comedies.
(a) Romantic (b) Classical (c) Traditional (d) Pure
- Sheridan's 'Rivals' is a comedy of
(a) Errors (b) Manners (c) Intrigues (d) Morals
- A Romantic comedy has
(a) no tragic scene (b) some tragic scenes
(c) classical unities (d) none of these
- Shaw's 'Arms And The Men' is comedy.
(a) Anti-Romantic (b) Romantic (c) Traditional (d) Pure
- Shakespeare's tragedies are tragedies.
(a) Classical (b) Traditional

have strong personality. In 'Justice' James How has his own outlook that differs from the outlook of his own son Walter How. James How believes in punishment while Walter How hates this idea. His characters are not flat. James How passes through change when he does not like Sergeant's attempt to arrest Falder, Some characters do not appear into play but their role is not unimportant. For example Mr. Honeywill in 'Justice'.

Galsworthy introduces simple and impressive dialogues. They express the character's thinking and help in the development of action. Galsworthy avoids long speeches of moral preaching. For they look artificial. In 'Justice' long speeches of Frome, Cleaver and The Judge are justified for these are part of the trial. At the moments of high emotion, Galsworthy does not use dialogues. Only with the movements of character he expresses the emotion. In Act III Scene III of Justice Falder does not speak but his movements express his inward agony. Galsworthy succeeds in producing proper atmosphere in his plays. Galsworthy's plays are very serious, yet they are not dull and uninteresting. Galsworthy fills them with humour, satire and irony. In "Justice" humour is created mostly by Cokeson. Frome passes a sharp satire on the imperfection of law and society.

Gentlemen, like prisoners are destroyed daily under our law for want of that human insight which sees them as they are patients and not criminals.

It is Galsworthy's greatness as a dramatist that he remains perfectly impartial with his characters. It is his imaginative capability that all characters find opportunity of expressing their views forcefully- Frome's arguments prove successfully that Falder did the crime in temporary madness. But when Cleaver argues it becomes difficult to believe that Falder was mad at the time of committing crime.

Thus Galsworthy is always impartial. Galsworthy's contribution to English drama may never be over-valued. He makes the drama realistic by introducing serious social problems. He uses drama as an instrument for social reform. 'Justice' made such a forceful impact on the government that it reduced the period of solitary confinement. His plays have power to move the mind of everybody. While other writers of problem plays point out only the problem, Galsworthy suggests the solution also. Thus Galsworthy gives a new direction to English drama.

(b) The American Drama

English Drama in the modern age passes through several changes in the hands of a few American dramatists. Those who helped in changing the traditional concept of tragedy are headed by O' Neill and Arthur Miller. It may be said that a new form of drama is introduced by them.

O'Neill

Eugene Gladstone O'Neill (1888-1953) was one of the greatest American dramatists. He was a Nobel laureate and winner of four Pulitzer Prizes. He attempted to define fundamental human problems in his works. It made him the most important writer in the American theatre. O'Neill studied (1914-1915) the techniques of playwriting at Harvard University under the famous theatre scholar George Pierce Baker.

O'Neill was associated both as a dramatist and as a manager with the Provincetown Players. This experimental theatrical group staged a number of his one-act plays, beginning with Bound East for Cardiff (1916), and many long plays. The Hairy Ape (1922) was the most important among them. Beyond the Horizon (1920; Pulitzer Prize, 1921) was a domestic tragedy in three acts. The Emperor Jones (1920; was a study of the disintegration of the mind of a black man who is a dictator yet remains under the influence of fear. In the nine-act play Strange Interlude (1927;

Naturalistic drama became highly introspective. Among English dramatists George Bernard Shaw and John Galsworthy were greatly influenced by Ibsen in the area of social criticism and psychological realism.

George Bernard Shaw

Shaw's first play, *Widowers' Houses* combined Ibsenite devices and aims with a flouting of the Romantic conventions. It was eventually published in his *Plays, Pleasant and Unpleasant* (1898). These first seven works for the stage — the others were *Candida* (1895), *The Philanderer* (1894), *Arms and the Man* (1894), *The Man of Destiny* (1896), *Mrs Warren's Profession* (1894), and *You Never Can Tell* (1897). *Three Plays for Puritans* (*The Devil's Disciple* (1897), *Caesar and Cleopatra* (1906), and *Captain Brassbound's Conversion* (1899) proved slightly better. Shaw's *Man and Superman* (1905) subtitled "A Comedy and a Philosophy". The destinies of individuals in Shaw's plays are represented as bound up with the fate of society as a whole. The human will is therefore of vital importance. His last plays, beginning with *The Apple Cart* (1929), turned to the problem of how people might best govern themselves. *Too True to be Good* (1932), *Village Wooing* (1934), *The Simpleton of the Unexpected Isles* (1935), *In Good King Charles's Golden Days* (1939), and *Buoyant Billions* (1948) are the best-known plays of this period.

Galsworthy

Galsworthy is a great dramatist. He is a problem play writer. He has a deep sympathy for the weaker section of society. In his dramas, he presents their problems to attract the attention of all people of society. It appeals more to head than to heart. The basic purpose of his plays is not to entertain but to make people conscious of others people's sufferings caused by imperfection of law and society.

John Galsworthy was a great versatile genius; a great poet, short story writer, essayist and dramatist.

In 1899, with the publication of his first novel 'Jocelyn', he began his literary career. But his earlier works are not of any repute. His first play *The Silver Box* appeared in 1906. It was followed by 'Joy' in 1907, 'Strife' in 1909, 'Justice' in 1910 and seven other plays. In 1922 he published *The Forsyte Safe*, a collection of his short stories. He again returned to his plays and published "The Skin Game" in 1920, 'A Family Man' in 1921, 'Loyalties' and 'Windows' in 1922 and 'Old English' in 1924.

Galsworthy wrote about a hundred poems also. They were published under titles 'Moods, Songs And Doggerels' and 'Verses-New and Old'. However, Galsworthy is "a much greater artist in the realm of drama and fiction than in poetry.

Galsworthy themes are based on various social problems. He deals with family relationships, social injustice and imperfection. He throws light on different aspects of family relationships in plays like 'Joy', 'Windows', 'A Family Man' and 'A Bit O' Love'. He deals with the injustice of society and law in *The Silver Box*, 'Justice and The Show'. He presents social imperfections in *The Elder Son*, 'The Skin Game', 'Strife' and 'Loyalties'.

Galsworthy's plots are original and well constructed. His incidents, situations, scenes and act develop in a perfect order. The opening scenes are always very interesting and important. For in 'Justice' the opening scene presents the action in the middle. Falder has committed forgery. According to his scheme it is his last day in the office. But his forgery is detected and he is arrested. In the play scene III, Act III is a masterpiece. The dramatist succeeds in showing the inward agony of a prisoner without introducing any speech.

Galsworthy's characters are realistic who do not differ from living human beings. His characters represent the dramatist's idea. In Galsworthy dramatic world people

Brutus: O Julius Caesar, thou art mighty yet! Thy spirit walks abroad, and turns our swords In our own proper entrails.

His greater skill lies in maintaining Brutus' dignity.

His life was gentle, and the elements

So mix'd in him that Nature might stand up

And say to all the world, "This was a wan!"

Antony and Cleopatra are historical characters and they too are presented with so many changes in 'Antony and Cleopatra'. It is Shakespeare's great success that he makes the drunkard libertine a tragic hero and a prostitute like woman a tragic heroine. What Shakespeare says about Cleopatra is true to his own dramatic art.

Age cannot wither her, nor custom stale

Her infinite variety. Other women cloy

The appetites they feed, but she makes hungry

Where most she satisfies; for vilest things

Become themselves in her, that the holy priests

Bless her when she is riggish,

Bernard Shaw's Saint Joan

Shaw's 'St. Joan' is a remarkable historical play that is more realistic than fictitious. Shaw shows how Joan is ill treated and unjustly burnt alive under the charge of being a witch. But Shaw makes the use of his high imagination by showing that Joan's spirit comes years after her death and finds that all respect her. When she asks if she should be born again to live among them, all of them leave her.

Modern Historical Plays

In the Modern Age historical plays are composed in the style of allegory that means the historical figure works as an artistic medium and the dramatist in fact intends to attack a contemporary person, injustice or system. Girish Karnard's 'Tughlaq' is such a play.

Girish Karnard is true to the historical account of Tughlaq but his purpose is not to highlight the character of Sultan Mumammad Tughlaq. He passes satire on the contemporary government.

Q. 5. Write a short essay on Drama of Psychological Realism with separate reference to the English and the American dramatists.

Ans. Drama of Psychological Realism

(a) The English Drama Introduction

Modern drama claims a new form of drama of its own nature. It is the drama of psychological realism. It may be a comedy as well as a tragedy. Just as drama was moving towards increasing realism in its depiction of the contemporary society. The 19th-century study of psychology affected the literature of the time very greatly. It led to increasing realism in the psychological motivation of characters. It is true to drama as well as novel of the period. Late 19th-century playwrights developed three-dimensional characters in the sense that they represented human psychology placed in realistic settings and situations. The leading playwrights of this style were the Norwegian dramatist Henrik Ibsen and the Swedish author August Strindberg. They are often considered the founders of modern drama of psychological realism. Their plays throw light on universal social problems as venereal disease, the sanctity of marriage, and women's rights. It does not mean that the individuality of the characters is lost for they are also psychological studies of individuals. In their hands the

Concept Of Historical Drama

Historical drama is a confusing term for history is an account of facts while drama is bound to be a fiction. Aristotle points out difference between a tragedy and a history in 'Poetics'. According to him history tells what had happened while a tragedy tells what might have happened or what should have happened in given circumstances according to the law or necessity or probability.

A historical play borrows the broad structure from history. His main characters too are taken from history but he does not present a photo copy of history. History is particular but when a writer works on that he generalizes all incidents and presents whatever should be universal.

Shakespeare's 'Macbeth', 'Julius Caesar' & 'Antony and Cleopatra'

Shakespeare's 'Macbeth', 'Julius Caesar' and 'Antony and Cleopatra' are historical plays for their main characters and incidents are taken from history. But the historical Macbeth differs from Shakespeare's Macbeth. Shakespeare introduces a number of changes in the historical account of Macbeth. There is no need to mention that the real or historical Macbeth had never faced witches and ghosts. His king Duncan was not an old man. He did not suffer from mental conflict. In historical record there is no Banquo. It is mental conflict and philosophic attitude of Macbeth that makes him an immortal character.

Out, out, brief candle!

Life's but a walking shadow, a poor player

That struts and frets his hour upon the stage

And then is heard no more. It is a tale

Told by an idiot, full of sound and fury,

Signifying nothing.

Shakespeare's 'Julius Caesar' is based on Roman history. The basis of Caesar's power was his position as "perpetual" dictator. According to the traditional Republican constitution, this office could only be held for six months during a dire emergency. Even before Caesar, however, that rule had been broken. Sulla had reigned as dictator for several years, and Caesar followed this precedent. He was also made consul for ten years in 45 he had received the sanctity of tribunes, making it illegal to harm him. In addition he obtained honours that increased his prestige. He wore the robe, crown, and sceptre of a triumphant general and used the title emperor.

Furthermore, as Pontifex Maximus, he was head of the state religion. Above all, however, he was in total command of the armies, and this remained the main source of his power.

A number of senatorial families, however, felt that Caesar threatened their position, and his honours and powers made them fear that he wanted to be rex (king), a title they, as Republicans, hated. In 44 bc, a group of senators, including Gaius Cassius and Marcus Junius Brutus, plotted his assassination. On the Ides (15th) of March 44 bc, when Caesar entered the Senate house, the group killed him.

When we compare this historical record with Shakespeare's Julius Caesar the fact is exposed how the great dramatist turns dull history into an interesting play. Caesar's emotional speeches that attract us and Brutus' mental conflict that impresses us is missing in the history. History does not tell about Caesar's spirit of taking revenge.

In 'Macbeth' The Porter Scene and The Banquet Scene are rich in this element. The porter at Macbeth's castle imagines he guards hell-gate.

Knock, knock, knock!

Who's there?

Faith, here's an English tailor come hither, for stealing out of a French hose.

Come in, tailor; here you may roast your goose. [Knocking within.]

Knock, knock! Never at quiet!

What are you? But this place is too cold for hell.

Tragi-comic Element in Shakespeare's Comedies

'As You Like It' is regarded as the brightest of all comedies by Shakespeare but the hero of the play, Orlando accounts for his misfortune that his life is a burden on the earth.

But let your fair eyes and gentle wishes go with me to my trial; wherein if I be foil'd there is but one sham'd that was never gracious; if kill'd, but one dead that is willing to be so. I shall do my friends no wrong, for I have none to lament me; the world no injury, for in it I have nothing; only in the world I fill up a place, which may be better supplied when I have made it empty.

"The Merchant of Venice' opens with Antonio's sadness:

Antonio: In sooth, I know not why I am so sad. It wearies me; you say it wearies you;

He thinks he is born to live like a sad man.

Antonio: I hold the world but as the world,

Gratiano: A stage, where every man must play a part, And mine a sad one.

Tearful Comedy, Or Sentimental Comedy

Sir Richard Steele of England wrote dramas about middle and lower-class characters in more or less realistic if oversimplified situations, in which goodness invariably triumphed over wickedness though after a lot of suffering on the part of gentle people. These plays were known variously as domestic drama, tearful comedy, or sentimental comic drama. In fact, they were filled with a great tragic sense but their ends were happy. Therefore they were called comedies. They were much like our present Hindi films. Throughout the action the villain remains creating troubles but in the last scene either his heart changes or he is punished. Both in writing and production, increasing attention was given to realistic detail and historical accuracy.

Q. 4. Write a short essay on Historical Drama.

Ans. Historical Drama

Introduction

Historical plays have always been very popular. Shakespeare contributed a long series of them. They are fourteen in all. Four of them are based on Roman History. They include 'Julius Caesar' and 'Antony and Cleopatra'. The other ten are: Henry VI in three parts, Richard III, Richard II, King John, Henry IV in two parts, Henry V and Henry VIII are based on English history.

mortals, masters and slaves reverse the roles traditionally assigned to them. It may be taken to be like a romantic story in which the prince appears as a piper or else the princess presents herself as a maid introducing her maid as the princess. In the Renaissance and after, tragicomedy was mainly comic, though Elizabethan and Jacobean tragedies almost always include some comic or grotesque elements. Modern tragicomedy is sometimes used synonymously with absurdist drama.

Tragi-comedy

Technically a tragi-comedy include an improbable plot, love as central theme, fast action filled with disguises, jealousy, treachery and intrigue, villain utterly wicked and hero absolutely virtuous, the hero and heroine have a narrow escape. Beaumont and Fletcher popularized such plays with the production of 'Philaster' in 1610. Many scholars are of the opinion that the Romantic plays of Elizabethan Age should be regarded as tragi-comedies on account of their blending of tragedy with comedy. These plays are rich in tragi-comic elements.

Elizabethan Drama

Elizabethan drama popularized tragi-comedy on account of romantic nature of their plays. There is no popular tragedy without comic scenes or speeches and no popular comedy without tragic scenes or speeches.

Tragi-comic Element In Marlowe's Doctor Faustus

A spiritual tragedy presents the struggle between good and evil in a human soul. Before Shakespeare, Marlowe contributed 'The Tragical History of Doctor Faustus', one of the greatest tragic plays in English literature. It is a spiritual tragedy of Renaissance ambition. Dr. Faustus is the most learned man of his time who has mastered all the branches of learning. Under the impact of Renaissance he wishes to be more than man. But God does not permit to have anything limitless. Dr. Faustus gives up God and becomes a worshipper of Devil. He signs a bond in his own blood with Satan that for twenty four years Dr. Faustus is entitled to have all whatever he wishes but then after Satan will take his soul to Hell. When the period expires Faustus longs to save his soul but fails. Even such a serious plot is not without comic scenes. Comic character appear and present a satire on the main plot of selling of soul by Dr. Faustus. The appearance of Seven Deadly Sins fob provides comic relief in the play. Remarkable comic effect is produced by the befooling of a horse trader by Dr. Faustus.

Tragi-comic Element In Shakespeare's Tragedies

Shakespeare's great tragedy 'Hamlet' has the 'Grave-digger Scene' as a comic relief. Grave digger sings romantic love song while digging the grave and talks in a gay mood.

[Clown digs and] sings.

In youth when I did love, did love,

Methought it was very sweet;

Ham: Whose grave's this, sirrah?

Clown: For no man, sir.

Ham: What woman then?

Clown: For none neither.

Ham: Who is to be buried in't?

Clown: One that was a woman, sir; but, rest her soul, she's dead.

Builder, and When We Dead Awaken are endowed with some of the isolated grandeur of the heroes of classical tragedy

Lower Class Tragedy

A tragedy on a humbler social level than that of the middle class. Lower class tragedy did not come to the light until the turn of the 20th century. Its outstanding examples are Eugene O'Neill's *Long Day's Journey into Night* (1956) and Arthur Miller's *Death of a Salesman* (1949).

Love Tragedies

In a number of plays tragedy is caused by the hero's passion for love that ruins his life. It is a theme in Shakespeare's '*Antony and Cleopatra*'. Their love is well expressed in the following conversation.

Cleopatra: If it be love indeed, tell me how much.

Antony: There's beggary in the love that can be reckon'd.

Cleopatra: I'll set a bourn how far to be below'd.

Antony: Then must thou needs find out new heaven, new earth.

Both of them commit suicide for each other.

*Give me my robe, put on my crown; I have
Immortal longings in me. Now no more
The juice of Egypt's grape shall moist this lip.
Yare, yare, good Iras; quick. Methinks I bear
Antony call. I see him rouse himself
To praise my noble act.*

'*Romeo and Juliet*' is an immortal love-tragedy. It also shows the tragic death of both.

*Jul. Go, get thee hence, for I will not away.
What's here? A cup, clos'd in my true love's hand?
Poison, I see, hath been his timeless end.
O churl! drunk all, and left no friendly drop
To help me after? I will kiss thy lips.
Haply some poison yet doth hang on them
To make me die with a restorative.
[Kisses him.]
Thy lips are warm!
Chief Watch, [within] Lead, boy. Which way?
Yea, noise? Then I'll be brief. O happy dagger!
[Snatches Romeo's dagger.]
This is thy sheath; there rest, and let me die.
She stabs herself and falls [on Romeo's body].*

Q. 3. Write a short essay on Tragi-comedy.

Ans. Tragi-comedy

Introduction

Tragi-comedy consists of dramas that combine elements of tragedy and comedy. Plautus coined the Latin word *tragicocomoedia* to denote a play in which gods and

Spiritual Tragedy

A spiritual tragedy presents the struggle between good and evil in human soul. Before Shakespeare, Marlowe contributed 'The Tragical History of Doctor Faustus', one of the greatest tragic plays in English literature. It is a spiritual tragedy of Renaissance ambition. Dr. Faustus is the most learned man of his time who has mastered all the branches of learning. Under the impact of Renaissance he wishes to be more than man. He wants to have limitless power, limitless honour, limitless wealth, limitless knowledge, limitless joy or in short everything limitless. But God does not permit to have anything limitless. Dr. Faustus gives up God and becomes a worshipper of Devil. He signs a bond in his own blood with Satan that for twenty four years Dr. Faustus is entitled to have all whatever he wishes but then after Satan will take his soul to Hell. When the period of twenty-four years expires Dr. Faustus feels sorry for his sins and wishes to have God's mercy but fails. Satan takes away his soul to Hell.

Revenge Tragedy

The Elizabethan dramatists introduced the theme of bloodthirsty revenge. The first English tragedy, *Gorboduc* (1561), by Thomas Sackville and Thomas Norton, is a chain of slaughter and revenge. Shakespeare's *Hamlet* popularized the revenge theme. The revenge drama derived originally from the Roman tragedies of Seneca but was established on the English stage by Thomas Kyd with *The Spanish Tragedie* (c.1590). Jacobean dramatists contributed numberless revenge tragedies. In Jacobean Age the theme of revenge became very popular. Webster's 'Duchess of Malff' and 'The White Devil' are regarded as masterpiece revenge tragedies. For a revenge tragedy there is need of a strong revenge motive. Hamlet wants to kill his uncle for Hamlet's father was killed by his uncle.

Psychological Tragedy

A psychological tragedy shows conflict between the hero's sense of duty and passion for wish. Duty directs to be fair and noble while wish provokes to adopt unfair means to fulfil material desires. The conflict grows so strong that the hero's personality is divided and he fails to decide whether to do this or that. Shakespeare's 'Macbeth' is a remarkable psychological tragedy. Macbeth suffers from serious mental conflict. *Lady Macbeth becomes a patient of Sleep-walking.*

Social Tragedy

In a social tragedy the hero represents modern fair and rational views and he has to fight against the whole conventional unfair and irrational social system. The system proves stronger and the hero is ruined. Galsworthy plays expose this social conflict. In his famous play 'Justice' Galsworthy puts stress on want of human insight in law and law-courts.

Gentlemen, men like the prisoner are destroyed daily under our law for want of that human insight which sees them as they are, patients, and not criminals.

These tragedies attract attention of people to serious social problems like imperfection of law and society, miserable condition of women, want of human insight and modern out-look.

Domestic Tragedy

Domestic tragedy found its mature expression in the plays of Henrik Ibsen toward the end of the 19th century. In earlier domestic dramas by other playwrights the leading characters were sometimes villains and at other times merely pathetic, but the middle class heroes of Ibsen's *Brand*, *Domestic tragedy Rosmersholm*, *The Master*

ends were happy. Therefore they were called comedies. They were much like our present Hindi films. Throughout the action the villain remains creating troubles but in the last scene either his heart changes or he is punished. Both in writing and production, increasing attention was given to realistic detail and historical accuracy.

Comedy of Intrigue

In some comic plays intrigues are played just for fun without aiming at causing serious loss to any one, these are called comedy of intrigue. Oliver Goldsmith's 'She Stoops to Conquer (1773)' was a masterpiece of this class. Almost all characters play intrigue after intrigue against one another and create hilarious laughters.

Q. 2. Write a brief note on the popularity of Tragedy.

Ans. Tragedy

Introduction

A kind of drama in which characters pass through unhappy or disastrous events, and is written in a serious or elevated style. Aristotle defines it as an imitation of action that is serious, complete and of a certain size or length.

Classical Tragedy

In a classical tragedy a man of high status falls from prosperity to adversity on account of his misfortune. Throughout the play the hero remains fighting against his fate that proves stronger than his heroism and ultimately the hero is ruined. A classical tragedy establishes the tradition that Destiny is Character. Shakespeare gives a heart moving expression to the miserable state of mankind before the forces of Fate.

As flies to wanton boys are we to th' gods.

They kill us for their sport.

A classical tragedy has no place for a comic dialogue, incident, scene or episode. It observes classical unities of time, place and action.

Romantic Tragedy

During Elizabethan Age the dramatists modified the classical concept of tragedy and produced Romantic tragedies. A Romantic tragedy presents the unfortunate down fall of a virtuous man because of the forces of evil. The hero fights against the forces of evil but they prove so strong that the hero is ruined in spite of his heroic glory. The villain represents the forces of evil while the hero represents goodness. Sometimes the hero succeeds in destroying the forces of evil but he achieves it at a very high cost that may involve his own life too. Shakespeare's 'Hamlet' is a Romantic tragedy. Hamlet succeeds in killing the villain but Hamlet too does not remain alive. Before his death, Hamlet has lost his beloved and mother. It is the high cost paid by him to establish poetic justice that Truth Wins At Last.

A Romantic tragedy has comic dialogue, incidents, scenes and episodes. It does not observe classical unities of time, place and action. Shakespeare's tragedies impress with their philosophic speeches. In 'Macbeth' the immortal lines appear:

Oat, out, brief candle!

Life's but a walking shadow, a poor player

That struts and frets his hour upon the stage

And then is heard no more. It is a tale

Told by an idiot, full of sound and fury,

Signifying nothing.

These comedies present a variety of love. Antonio and Bassanio represent friendly love while Bassanio and Portia represent passionate love.

Romantic and Anti-Romantic Comedies

Bernard Shaw's 'Arms and the Men' is an Anti-Romantic comedy'. It is a sharp satire on romantic glory of love and war. Bluntschli claims:

I've no ammunition what use are cartridge in battle. I always carry chocolate instead.

Sergius too expresses his satiric opinion about the art of soldiering:

Soldiering my dear madam, is the coward's art of attacking mercilessly when you are strong, and keeping out of harms's way when you are weak.

Romantic comedies were popularized by Elizabethan dramatists. The element of satire is strong in Shakespeare's comedies also. For example in 'Tempest' Shakespeare passes satire on worldliness by drawing a philosophic picture of human life.

We are such stuff

As dreams are made on; and our little life

Is rounded with a sleep.

In 'As You Like It', Shakespeare passes satire on romantic love and lovers in a highly comic style.

Love is merely a madness; and, I tell you, deserves as well a dark house and a whip as madmen do; and the reason why they are not so punish'd and cured is that the lunacy is so ordinary that the whippers are in love too.

Comedy of Humour

Ben Jonson has the credit of introducing a new type of comedy based on the traditional concept of four humours: hot, cold, dry, and moist. His characters are 'humours incarnate. If one is too angry the other is too cool. Ben Jonson's 'Every Man in His Humour' is a masterpiece.

Comedy of Error

So many of English comedies partly or solely come in the class of being comedy of error. In these comedies characters fall a victim of misunderstanding e.g., a servant is taken to be the master or a home is taken to be an inn. Oliver Goldsmith's 'She Stoops to Conquer (1773)' was an immediate success and remains one of the best-known comedies of British drama. In this play the hero is victim of misunderstanding. He takes his father's friend to be an inn-keeper, his house an inn and his daughter a bar maid.

Comedy of Manner

When odd manners and mannerism become the source of comedy, the play is called a comedy of manner. In 18th century England people suffered from artificial manners. In comedy of manner these manners were satirized. Sheridan's 'Rivals' is a masterpiece comedy of manner. From the name of Mrs. Malaprop, a humorous character in the play The Rivals, derives the widely used term malapropism, meaning the absurd misapplication of a long word.

Tearful Comedy Or Sentimental Comedy

Sir Richard, Steele of England wrote dramas about middle and lower-class characters in more or less realistic and oversimplified situations, in which goodness invariably triumphed over wickedness though after a lot of suffering on the part of gentle people. These plays were known variously as domestic drama, tearful comedy, or sentimental comic drama. In fact they were filled with a great tragic sense but their

UNIT

5

FORMS OF DRAMA

STRUCTURE

- Comedy
- Characters in the Play
- Act-wise Critical Summary
 - Summary
 - Test Yourself

LEARNING OBJECTIVE

After going through this unit you will be able to learn about:

- The different forms of drama

5.1. FORMS OF DRAMA

Q. 1. Write a short note on comedy as a popular form of English Drama.

Ans. Comedy

Introduction

Comedy is one of the most popular forms of drama. According to scholars 'A drama with a happy ending, chiefly representing everyday life and of a light, amusing, and often satirical character is called a comedy.'

Classical Concept Of Comedy

According to classical concept, a comic play imitates persons of inferior standard. They appear, act and speak in a way to make the audience laugh. For them a comic character should be either excessively bulky or thin; short or long or suffering from a physical deformity of being hard in hearing or faltering in speaking or walking. The ass-headed Bottom in Shakespeare's 'A Mid Summer Night's Dream' is an example of that classical concept of a comic character.

The concept of happy ending too presents a problem in many plays like Shakespeare's 'The Merchant of Venice'. The tragic phase present in the play is reduced only at the end with the news that all the lost ships owned by Antonio have reached ashore.

The other quality of a comic play is the presentation of everyday life. It suggests that a comic action does not require an uncommon situation. But Shakespeare's comedies do not follow this condition. They present a story of mirth and laughter dealing with love and marriage in the atmosphere of adventure. In 'The Merchant of Venice' Bassanio goes to Belmont to marry Portia and for that purpose he borrows money from Antonio who arranges money putting his life at stake. Bassanio tells how people put their life to danger in hope of marrying Portia.

*The Hyrcanian deserts and the vasty wilds
Of wide Arabia are as thoroughfares now
For princes to come view fair Portia.
The watery kingdom, whose ambitious head
Spits in the face of heaven, is no bar
To stop the foreign spirits, but they come
As o'er a brook to see fair Portia.*

- (a) sandwich (b) burger
(c) Swiss cheese (d) pizza
44. Where was the main office of Wagner Company?
(a) New York (b) New England
(c) New Manhattan (d) New Tokyo
45. What was the first title of 'Death of a Salesman'?
(a) The Salesman (b) Willy: The Salesman
(c) Inside of His Head (d) None
46. Willy wants to give Biff.....
(a) £ 20,000 (b) £ 30,000 (c) £ 10,000 (d) £ 25,000
47.promises to carry on Willy's dream.
(a) Biff (b) Linda (c) Charley (d) Happy
48. Miller's autobiography was published in.....
(a) 19 87 (b) 1997 (c) 1977 (d) 1980
49. What was the title of Miller's autobiography?
(a) My Life (b) Time Bends: A Life
(c) Life & Time (d) I'm Miller
50. Howard is.....of Wagner Company.
(a) The former owner (b) The present owner
(c) A Salesman (d) The Manager
51. Arthur Miller died in the year.....
(a) 20 05 (b) 2003 (c) 2002 (d) 2001

ANSWERS

1. (a) 2. (b) 3. (c) 4. (b) 5. (a) 6. (a) 7. (c) 8. (a) 9. (c) 10. (d)
11. (a) 12. (a) 13. (c) 14. (b) 15. (c) 16. (b) 17. (a) 18. (b) 19. (c) 20. (d)
21. (a) 22. (b) 23. (d) 24. (a) 25. (d) 26. (c) 27. (a) 28. (c) 29. (b) 30. (c)
31. (a) 32. (c) 33. (a) 34. (b) 35. (c) 36. (c) 37. (c) 38. (a) 39. (b) 40. (a)
41. (a) 42. (b) 43. (a) 44. (a) 45. (c) 46. (a) 47. (d) 48. (a) 49. (b) 50. (b)
51. (b)

- (a) a high class tragedy (b) a middle class tragedy
(c) a lower class (d) a romantic comedy
27. Who is Stanley ?
(a) a waiter (b) Charley's son
(c) Charley's secretary (d) a player
28. Who is Jenny ?
(a) a waiter (b) Charley's son
(c) Charley's secretary (d) a call girl
29. For Willy Loman the period is full of joy and satisfaction.
(a) 1938 (b) 1928 (c) 1942 (d) 1920
30. For Willy Loman the period of is full of joy and dissatisfaction.
(a) 1938 (b) 1928 (c) 1942 (d) 1920
31. Who doubts the insurance company would not pay money to Linda after Willy's death,
(a) Ben (b) Charley (c) Biff (d) Happy
32. enables Willy to pay the insurance instalment.
(a) Bernard (b) Ben (c) Charley (d) Jenny
33. Who speaks the following words for Willy:
"He had the wrong dreams."
(a) Biff (b) Happy (c) Charley (d) Stanley
34. Who speaks the following words for Willy:
"He had a good dream."
(a) Biff (b) Happy (c) Charley (d) Stanley
35. Who speaks the following words for Willy:
"A Salesman is god to dream."
(a) Biff (b) Linda (c) Charley (d) Happy
36. In 1949 'Death of a Salesman' received award,
(a) Theatre Guild National (b) New York Drama Critics' Circle
(c) Pulitzer Prize (d) Antonette Perry Award
37. Biff was.....years old when Willy bought the house.
(a) 10 (b) 8 (c) 9 (d) 11
38. Willy's house was mortgaged for.....years.
(a) 30 (b) 15 (c) 25 (d) 20
39. Arthur Miller was an.....dramatist.
(a) French (b) American (c) Irish (d) Swiss
40. Charley offers to Willy.....dollars a week.
(a) 50 (b) 60 (c) 55 (d) 100
41. Where is New England?
(a) England (b) Canada (c) America (d) France
42. Willy's brother Ben offers him a Diamond.....
(a) Ring (b) Watch (c) Pen (d) Bracelet
43. Willy likes to eat.....

9. Who is Willy Loman's neighbour and friend?
(a) Biff (b) Happy (c) Charley (d) Wagner
10. Who is Miss Forsythe?
(a) a bar girl (b) Biff's neighbour
(c) Charley's daughter (d) a call girl
11. It hurts Willy that he could not go with his brother to
(a) Alaska (b) Weatherbury (c) Boston (d) Yarmouth
12.is Willy's younger son.
(a) Happy (b) Biff (c) Stanley (d) Howard
13. Bernard is son of
(a) Willy (b) Wagner (c) Charley (d) Biff
14. How old is Biff?
(a) 32 (b) 34 (c) 33 (d) 35
15. Who wishes to buy a ranch?
(a) Happy (b) Bernard (c) Biff (d) Howard
16. Who according to Willy Loman was a prince?
(a) Biff (b) Mr. Wagner (c) Happy (d) Howard
17. Linda: Then make.....your father, Biff!
(a) Charley (b) Howard (c) Wagner (d) Stanley
18. Willy: 'You can't eat the.....and throw the peel away.
(a) mango (b) orange
(c) banana (d) pomegranate
19. What is the 'Requiem'?
(a) an introduction (b) a middle
(c) a dirge (d) a conclusion
20. 'Death of a Salesman' is a play of :
(a) Three acts (b) Three chapters
(c) Two chapters (d) Two acts
21. How old is Happy?
(a) 32 (b) 33 (c) 34 (d) 31
22. Miss Forsythe comes back with another girl named.....
(a) Miss Frances (b) Letta (c) Linda (d) Julie
23. In Boston Willy flirts with a girl named.....
(a) Miss Forsythe (b) Miss Letta
(c) Miss Fanny (d) Miss Frances
24. Willy's affair with Miss Frances is exposed before.....
(a) Biff (b) Happy (c) Bernard (d) Charley
25. The insurance company pays.....dollars to Loman family.
(a) Thirty thousand (b) Fifty thousand
(c) Ten thousand (d) Twenty thousand
26. What is the rank of the play 'Death of a Salesman'?

nut, he don't tell you the law or give you medicine. He is a man way out-there in the blue, riding on a smile and a shoeshine. And when they start not smiling back-that is an earthquake. And then you get yourself a couple of spots on your hat, and you're finished. Nobody dast blame this man. A salesman is got to dream, boy. It comes with the territory.

Reference to the Context: These lines have been taken from 'Requiem' of Arthur Miller's famous play, 'Death of a Salesman'. It is a heart touching story of Willy, a salesman who has been working for them for thirty-four years to promote Wagner's Company. Howard, the present owner of the company is more practical than sentimental. He puts Willy on commission basis but when Willy feels trouble in it he dismisses him from the company. Willy's heart is broken. He goes to his only friend Charley and borrows money to deposit his instalment of insurance policy. Then he commits suicide. The family gets twenty-thousand dollar from the insurance company.

Explanation: Charley pays tribute to Willy in these words. According to him nobody should blame Willy for being an unsuccessful salesman. For a salesman there is no limit of territory. He is allowed to whatever he can sell. He is neither a mechanic to mend things nor a doctor to treat nor a lawyer to point out a law. He is a man showing dreams that what he sells is supreme. He wins on other's smile. When he does not get smile, his salesmanship faces danger to its existence. When Willy found he was not able to sell other things he sold what he could sell quite easily though it was his own life.

Note: Willy sells himself. What he fails in earning as a living man, he earns after death as payment from the insurance company.

Short Answer Question

1. What's a dirage or e requirement ?

Objective Questions

1. Arthur Miller was born in.....
(a) 1915 (b) 1916 (c) 19 17 (d) 1914
2. 'Death of a Salesman' was published in.....
(a) 1950 (b) 1949 (c) 19 51 (d) 1948
3. Who is the hero in 'Death Of A Salesman'?
(a) Biff Lonian (b) Happy Loman (c) W illy Loman (d) Charley
4. Willy Loman works in.....
(a) Wurger Company (b) Wagner Company
(c) Winston Company (d) Wilson Company
5. Willy has been working in Wagner Company for.
(a) 34 years (b) 35 years (c) 32 years (d) 30 years
6. Ben is Willy Loman's.
(a) dead brother (b) father (c) de ad friend (d) son
7.the owner of the Wagner Company valued Willy very much.
(a) Mr. Charley (b) Mr. Wilson
(c) Mr. Wagner (d) Mr. Stanley
8. Willy: I thank Almighty God you're both built like.....
(a) Adonises (b) Ulysses (c) He rcules (d) Samsons

Reference to the Context: These lines have been taken from Act II of Arthur Miller's famous play 'Death of a Salesman'. It is a heart touching story of Willy Loman a salesman who works hard to promote Wagner's Company. It was Willy's labour that made this mark popular there. It is an irony of fate that now the same company is not ready to value him. Howard has no regard for Willy Loman's service. Now he regards him as a burden on the company for being old and outdated in the market. Willy is not able to promote business according to the expectation and requirement. Therefore, now they do not pay him salary but force him to work on commission basis. When Willy asks for a favour his services are terminated. He is asked to get out of the company.

Explanation: Willy leaves the company with a broken heart. His sons have invited him on lunch. He goes to them. He hopes to hear something of their success. He does not want to give the ill news of his dismissal to his wife. He recognizes her sacrifices and does not wish to grieve her more. He asks Biff not to delay in telling about his success. The poor man does not know that his stupid son Biff has nothing good to tell him. Biff does not want to tell it directly to his father that in spite of meeting his friend Bill Oliver he has not succeeded in getting a job. He tells Willy that he has a plan to make money without delay. But Willy has no patience to hear such things and Biff has no courage to tell him the truth.

Note: I. Willy's Character.

II. Biff's character.

Text 25

What a proposition, ts, ts. Terrific, terrific. 'Caude she's suffered, Ben, the woman has suffered. You understand me? A man can's go out the "way he came in, Ben, a man has got to add up to something. You can't, you can't. You gotta consider, now; Don't answer so quick. Remember, it's a guaranteed twenty-thousand dollar proposition.

Reference to the Context: These lines have been taken from Act II of Arthur Miller's famous play 'Death of a Salesman'. It is a heart touching story of Willy Loman a salesman who works hard to promote Wagner's Company. It was Willy's labour that made this mark popular there. It is an irony of fate that now the same company is not ready to value him. Howard has no regard for Willy Loman's service. When Willy asks for a favour his services are terminated. He is asked to get out of the company. Willy leaves the company with a broken heart. Still he does not forget to deposit the instalment of insurance policy for which he borrows money from his friend Charley.

Explanation: Willy imagines he is talking to his dead brother Ben that is suggestive of Willy's own thinking. He feels consoled with the thought that after his death his wife Linda will not suffer because the insurance company will pay her twenty thousand dollars, Willy tells Ben that it will be his contribution to the family. He claims that it's a guaranteed twenty-thousand dollar proposal. It suggests how Willy has proved that he is a remarkable salesman. At last he has sold himself for twenty-thousand dollar.

Note: I. Willy's love for his wife Linda.

II. Willy's farsightedness.

III. Willy's imaginative thoughtfulness that he talks to his dead brother.

Text 26

Nobody dast blame this man. You don't understand; Willy was a salesman. And for a salesman, there is no rock bottom to the life. He don't put a bolt to a

burden or the company for being old and outdated in the market, Willy is not able to promote business according to the expectation and requirement. Now Willy feels tired in long driving. Willy goes to talk about it to Howard.

Explanation: Willy Loman talks to Howard regarding his problem that now long driving troubles him. Howard does not pay attention to him saying he has to attend some other people. It irritates Willy. He claims that he has some rights in the company for he has been serving it for thirty-four years and Mr. Wagner had made some promises to him. He requests Howard to realize his miseries that now his earnings are reduced to this limit that he is not able to pay even his insurance premium. He devoted his youth in the promotion of the company. He reminds that in 1929 his commission was one hundred and seventy dollars a week. Now he is old and the company should pay him salary. He is not an orange that the fruit is eaten but the peel is thrown away.

Notes: I. Use of orange imagery.

II. Use of proverbial statement-A Man is not a Piece of Fruit.

III. Use of irony-Howard gives importance to new customers more than an old employee.

IV. Difference between an old businessman and a young businessman.

V. Miserable condition of Willy Loman exposed in the sentence-Now I can't pay my insurance.

Text 23

Willy, when're you gonna realize that them things don't mean anything? You named him Howard, but you can't sell that The only thing you got in this world is what you can sell. And the funny thing is that you're a salesman, and you don't know that.

Reference to the Context: These lines have been taken from Act II of Arthur Miller's famous play, 'Death of a Salesman'. It is a heart touching story of a salesman Willy who works hard to promote Wagner's Company and the Owner Mr. Wagner values him highly. He has been working for them for thirty-four years. But now the story takes a turn for Mr. Wagner is no more and his son Howard is more practical than sentimental. He puts Willy on commission basis but when Willy feels trouble in it he dismisses him from the company. Willy goes to his only friend Charley.

Explanation: Charley asks Willy not to be sentimental but realize the truth that Howard has dismissed him not because of any personal cause but purely a commercial cause that now Howard is not satisfied with his work. Willy is not able to promote the business. He is not able to sell things. It is not important whether he calls him by personal name or any other name. Howard is a pure businessman who wants business. If you can't sell things you are not fit to be a salesman. Charley asks Willy to think over the problem objectively and decide what he can sell in the world and should start selling that thing.

Note: Taking hint from Charley's practical advice Willy sells himself. What he fails in earning as a living man, he earns after death as payment from the insurance company.

Text 24

I was fired, and I'm looking for a little good news to tell your mother, because the woman has waited and the woman has suffered. The gist of it is that I haven't got a story left in my head, Biff. So don't give me lecture about facts and aspects.

and Happy. In these lines Biff tells his brother about his failure in being settled in life. Willy thinks how greatly he had expected of Biff's future. Willy tells how to be successful as a businessman.

Explanation: Willy Loman is proud of his son's handsome personality. He regards it as the only requirement for success in business. According to him if a man can attract others, he gets great success in business. He claims that a confident man succeeds so well. Modesty is an obstacle in becoming popular among businessmen. When a salesman enters with a laughing face telling a few interesting stories they never keep him waiting. They welcome him and buy whatever he presents before them. But Biff is shy by nature therefore, he is out of market. The people do not love him. He fails in doing any business.

Note: I. Willy Loman tells how to be successful as a salesman.

II. Biff is shy by nature.

III. Use of Proverbial style:

"It's not what you say, it's how you say it—because personality always wins the day."

Text 21

Like a young god, Hercules—something like that, and the Sun, the Sun all around him. Remember how he waved to me? Right up from the field, with the representatives of three colleges standing by? And the buyers I brought, and the cheers when he came out—Loman, Loman, Loman! God Almighty, he'll be great yet. A star like that, magnificent, can never really fade away!

Reference to the Context: The same as in Ex. 20.

Explanation: Willy Loman is proud of his son's handsome personality. He regards it as the only requirement for success in business. According to him, his son Biff can attract others and his handsome personality creates their personal interest in him. Therefore, Biff can rise very high in business. He claims that he has succeeded so well on account of it. He is so popular among his businessmen that they never keep him waiting. They welcome him and buy whatever he presents before them. Biff too is blessed with a star like personality. Willy thinks of past when Biff was a school boy. As a football player he was very popular and all wanted to see him and welcome him personally. It shows if Biff becomes a salesman his success is sure. He can never be out of market. The people will love him and he will succeed in doing any business.

Note: I. Willy Loman's stress on personality to be successful as a salesman.

II. Hercules—in general sense a handsome youth in mythology: A hero of superhuman strength, usually depicted as carrying a club, who was celebrated for accomplishing twelve extraordinary tasks or 'labours' imposed on him by Hera and who after death was ranked among the gods.

Text 22

I am talking about your father! There were promises made across this desk! You must n't tell me you have got people to see—I put thirty-four years into this firm, Howard, and now I can't pay my insurance! You can't eat the orange and throw the peel away—a man is not a piece of fruit.

Reference To The Context: These lines have been taken from Act II of Arthur Miller's famous play, 'Death of a Salesman'. It is a heart touching story of a salesman who works hard to promote Wagner's Company and the Owner Mr. Wagner values him highly. He has been working for them for thirty-four years. But now the story takes a turn for Mr. Wagner is no more and his son Howard is more practical than sentimental. He has no regard for Willy Loman's service. Now he regards him as a

his sons who are his own blood. It is a great misery that they have no respect for Willy who used to weave dreams of their success. Willy is out of market for those men who knew him are either dead or retired. Now he visits the market but no one welcomes him. At home he is neglected for now he is not a source of income.

Note: I. Use of animal imagery.

II. Character of Linda.

III. Character of sons.

IV. Injustice to Willy

Text 19

He drives seven hundred miles, and when he get there no one knows him any more, no one welcomes him. And what goes through a man's mind, driving seven hundred miles home without having earned a cent? Why shouldn't he talk to himself?

Reference to the Context: These lines have been taken from Act I of Arthur Miller's famous play, 'Death of a Salesman'. It is a heart touching story of a salesman who works hard to promote Wagner's Company and the Owner Mr. Wagner values him highly. He has been working for them for thirty-four years. But now the story takes a turn for Mr. Wagner is no more and his son Howard is more practical than sentimental.

Willy Loman has devoted the prime of his lifeline the promotion of Wagner's Company. Linda accounts for his contribution to the growth of this company. There was a time when the products of Wagner Company were not popular in New England. Neither the people of that area had heard the name of this company nor Mr. Wagner knew that area, it was Willy's labour that made this mark popular there.

Explanation: It is an irony of fate that now the same company is not ready to value him. Howard has no regard for Willy Loman's service. Now he regards him as a burden on the company for being old and outdated in the market, Willy is not able to promote business according to the expectation and requirement. Therefore now they do not pay him salary but force him to work on commission basis. To work on commission basis is not easy at this age for him. But the reality is that now he is out of market. The people who loved him are either dead or retired. He fails in doing any business. He drives seven hundred miles, and when he gets there no one knows him any more in the market. Now no one welcomes him. He wanders from shop to shop, market to market and town to town. It is very exhausting. It makes him more tired when he becomes unsuccessful. What goes through a man's mind, driving seven hundred miles home without having earned a cent can only be felt by a person emotionally attached to him. He talks to himself for no one has time to talk to him.

Note: I. Willy Loman's misery.

II. Cause of Willy's abnormal mental state.

III. Linda's understanding of her husband's psychology.

Text 20

Don't be so modest. You always started too low. Walk in with a big laugh. Don't look worried. Start off with a couple of your good stories to lighten things up. It's not what you say; it's how you say it-because personality always wins the day.

Reference to the Context: These lines have been taken from Act I of Arthur Miller's famous play, 'Death of a Salesman'. It is a heart touching story of a salesman Willy Loman who works hard to promote Wagner's Company. He has two sons Biff