

Farewell to Barn and Stack and Tree

By A.E. Housman

Prepared by

Ms. Manoharie Strizena

English Unit for Appreciation of English Literary Text

Maliyadeva Balika Vidyakaya

About the Poet

Alfred Edward Housman, usually known as A.E. Housman, is an English poet. He was born in England on 26th March in the United Kingdom. Housman was one of the foremost classicists of his age and has been ranked as one of the greatest scholars who ever lived.

Poem (Ballad) in Brief

A traumatizing story of a person who is suffering with a feeling of guilt. That feeling of guilt leads the person to bid farewell to his own surroundings and seclude himself. By allowing free flow of emotions out of the speaker in the ballad, Housman attains his purpose of providing this empathetic expression of a person suffering with fear and guilt.

Themes

- Conflict between siblings.
- How sudden provocation leads one to be killed by the other.
- How the killer is filled with guilt and regret and leaves to escape the situation.
- Home life is disrupted by conflicts.
- Simple rural and farming setting, lifestyle of such people.
- The concept of motherly love & care.

Techniques

- Personification
- Use of repetition
- Euphemism
- Rhyming scheme

Symbols

- Dialect colloquial words
- Ballad style
- Anaphora
- Alliteration
- Inversion
- Narrative story

Context Question

"She had two sons at rising day

Tonight she'll be alone"

- a) Name the work in which these lines appear. Name the writer.
- b) Who is "she"?
- c) Why does she become alone?
- d) What are the feelings of the speaker according to the above situation?

Essay Type Question

"Impulsive anger brings repentance and frustration." Discuss how the poet presents this message with relevance to the situation in the poem 'Farewell to Barn and Stack and Tree'.

Thank you

Ms. Manoharie Sirisena – MBV –