

SRIMAAN PGTRB COACHING CENTRE-  
ENGLISH MATERIAL-CONTACT: 8072230063

2017

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**ENGLISH**

**UNIT-I**

**IMMORTALITY ODE**

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### **PG TRB - ENGLISH**

#### **Immortality ode**

#### **Romantic Movement**

English romantic movement began in 1798 with the publication of Lyrical Ballads.

- **not a sudden outburst but the result of long and gradual growth & development**

#### **Poets of the romantic school**

Wordsworth, Coleridge, Shelley, Keats etc.

The Elizabethans were the first romantics. Literature is essentially romantic in spirit.

#### **Decline of Romanticism**

- **Romantic spirit suffered a total decline and eclipse during Augustan age. Augustan Literature (A.L) was mainly intellectual and rational, deficient in emotion and imagination. A.L. dealt exclusively with the artificial life of upper classes of the city of London form and diction and theme – artificial. No feeling for nature.**

#### **PRE-ROMANTICS**

“Return to Nature” played a very prominent part in the revival of romanticism.

- **wanted to return to the free and invigorating life of the world of leaves and flowers ‘The season’ (170 lines) of Thomson that nature came to her own for the first time and flourished is the poetry of Gray, Collins, Burns, Cowper and Crabbe – (they are called the precursors of romantic movement) show a genuine feeling for nature. Blake was the first to introduce the romantic note of mysticism in English poetry. His poems are “extraordinary compositions, full of unearthly visions, charming simplicity and baffling obscurity**

#### **Medieval Revival**

Middle Ages were essentially romantic magic and mystery, love and adventure. They stirred the imagination of the romantics.

#### **The Lyrical Ballads**

History of romanticism was taken with the publication of the Lyrical Ballads in 1798. It was now for the first time Wordsworth and Coleridge emphasized the aims and Objectives of the new poetry. Coleridge pointed out

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that he would treat of objects and incidents super natural Wordsworth deal with subjects taken from ordinary and commonplace life. Contribution of wordsworth to English Romantic movement

1. The rejection of the Heroic couplet and introduction of a no. of new metres
2. The rejection of (18<sup>th</sup> poetic diction.
3. The introduction of simplicity in theme and treatment
4. The democratisation of the subject matter of poetry
5. The revival of the love of wild and real nature

#### Other Romantic poets

Keats, Shelley and Byron belong to the second generation of romantic poets.

- began to compose mainly after 1815
- Poets of 1<sup>st</sup> generation attained respectability and social acceptance in their life time
- Poets of 2<sup>nd</sup> generation remained outcast till the end. Their fame grew only after their death.
- Keats is a unique phenomenon in the history of romanticism . He represents a unique balance of classicism and romanticism. Unlike his Contemporaries he keeps aloof from the stirring events of the day.
- He was the first to die but even in his youth and within the short period of 4 years he attained such heights that the only poet who merits comparison with him is Shakespeare. French and German Influences The French Revolution (FR) and German Idealistic Philosophy of Kant, Hegel and Nietze. The French Revolution and the writings of the makers fired the imagination of English. romantics. “ The Return to Nature and the democratic spirit were nourished and fostered by the revolution. It is fed and strengthened by poets like Byron and Shelley.
- “The German Idealistic Philosophy reached English romantics largely through Coleridge. Ace to the philosophy God, the supreme is immanent through the universe. There is essential unity between man, nature and God. This spirit, The divine is only reality. The rest are only appearances, unreal and momentary.

#### William wordsworth - 1770-1850

- born at cocker mouth, Cumberland
- 2 elder brother 2 younger brother a sister Dorothy. while he was 8 his mother died and the shock of the blow hi father died ater 6 years (When he was 14)

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- Studied at Hawkshead and Combridge The French revolution was at its height and he was fascinated by it.
- fell in love with a French woman Annete Vallon who bore him a daughter. The impracticability of marrying her plunged him in pessimism for a while. In Dorothy's (his sister) constant love and care a new peace and happiness were coming over.
- In 1795 he met Coleridge – who had the most profound influence over him (next to Dorothy of course) They together published their famous “Lyrical Ballads” jointly in two editions 1798 and 1800. Wordsworth – was the one who actually contributed the vast majority of the Lyrical Ballads. Coleridge's super natural tale of “The Ancient Mariner” was the major and outstanding contribution. Wordsworth married Mary Hutchinson (a childhood friend) – five children (two died in infancy) Dorothy remained a member of his household.
- he was recognized more widely after the publication of Coleridge's ‘Biographia Literaria’ in 1817. After the death of Southey in 1843 (Wordsworth) he was made poet Laureate somewhat against his will.

**Ode:-** Intimations of immortality from Recollections of early childhood. (208 lines)

The inspiration came to flow from his conversations with his sister Dorothy

- Poems were all evocations from his recollections of their childhood when their parents were alive and dead.

**The Title**

Ode became stylized during the Latin period. The long title may seem a bit confusing. Once the subject matter is understood title is an exact one. ‘Intimations’ means Occasional glimpses through spiritual perception. “of immortality” means of the spiritual world or sphere as differentiated from the purely physical or intellectual sphere

**Starza:-**

I. prefixed to 1<sup>st</sup> starza – 3 lines of an epigraph from “The Rainbow”. childhood days – he lived the fullest spiritual life and hopes it will continue thro recollection at least during his life as a man.

II. The beautiful objects of nature still appeal to him but he misses the vision when he was a child.

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III. Wordsworth has a very powerful memory for these incidents that made 'an emotional impact on him. This emotion could be evoked through recollection.

IV. Whither is fled that visionary gleam?

Where is it now the glory and the dream?

with this end the 1<sup>st</sup> section of the poem written of 1802. The next day he and his sister Dorothy walked over to see Coleridge. It inspires Coleridge to write his own ode on the same subject. He does not feel the joy of nature and the children and their celebration of spring.

Lapse of two years he comes to back to the poem and attempts another explanation in stanzas V to VII – men's gradual alienation from contact with the spirit of the universe.

V. Wordsworth presents one aspect of the alienation of man from his original of spiritual perception.

"Our birth is but a sleep and a forgetting"

he uses the Greek or platonic that the soul comes from God to be embodied in a child at birth.

Early childhood - had most one me morable experiences of earth

Youth - guided by the vision splend

Man - it die away and fade into the light of common day.

Herehe emphasis the element of time.

VI. The unforgetfulness of the spiritual world man is caught up in the material world of natural

VII. As a child he begins to imitate the activities of his parent and grown ups – using his own spiritual gift.

VIII. Address to the child

IX. Man must accept the position and try possible to retain the memory of the earlier vision and recollection to develop the philosophic mind.

X. Growing maturity of man also brings wisdom which comes through reflection and compassion for humanity.

XI. he again returns to his poetic faith already expressed in "Tinton Abbey".

Aspects of nature seemed to produce in Wordsworth as a young boy and youth an unusual and even unique emotional reaction.

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Wordsworth is a master of poet and may be considered as the 3<sup>rd</sup> great English poet after Shakespeare and Milton.

#### **Important line**

“To me the meanest flower that blows can give Thoughts that do often lie too deep for tears”

Partly written in 1803

Partly written in 1806

greatest and noblest of English poems.

#### **Theme:-**

Immortality of the human soul. Masterpiece of philosophical and metaphysical poetry. Wordsworth's actual experiences. Child's feelings of immortality is based upon his memories of heavenly life.

#### **Poem:-**

Begins with a sense of loss and ends with calm reflection and sense of gain.

#### **Epigraph – 1<sup>st</sup> line**

“The child is the father of the man”

### Tintern abbey

- William Wordsworth

#### **Full title of the poem**

- “Lines composed a few miles above “Tintern abbey on revisiting the bank of the river wye during a Tour July 13, 1798”
  - Poet's first visit in - 1733
  - Second time in - 1798
  - The second visit made the poet conscious of his changed attitude to Nature. His attitude to Nature has undergone many changes. But his love for nature remains unchanged.
1. When he was a boy – he was full of animal spirits. He wandered along rivers streams and mountains jumping about.
  2. When he was a young man he developed sensuous feeling for nature. He was thrilled only by the external colours and forms of nature.
  3. Old age – Wordsworth realized that youthful pursuits were “thoughtless” He turned to tragedies of life.

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Wordsworth pays a glorious tribute to his sister Dorothy Wordsworth he tells her that nature will protect her and him from the dreariness of daily life. He requests her not to forget their joint visit to Wye. in future if she visits she will certainly be reminded of her intimacy with her brother. The river will be connecting link between them.

T.A. throws valuable light on Wordsworth's relationship with nature and with his sister sycamore – a kind of tree

T.A. can be regarded as an autobiography of Wordsworth's spiritual development.

#### The Prelude – I

William Wordsworth

647 lines – (1798 – 1805) (1770 – 1850)

It is supposed to be the introductory part of a long poem designed as "The Recluse" or "views on man Nature and society. The title was given by his wife.

- The prelude is a period from childhood to the poet's prime tracing the growth of his aesthetic sensibility.

Sub title – "The Growth of poet's mind"

- a spiritual autobiography
- It is a poetical record of the poet's life from childhood to early middle age.

#### 14 books

- 1<sup>st</sup> 2 describe the poet's early love of nature and various formative influences. At this stage he had begun to realize the wisdom of nature. next 4 books describe Wordsworth's stay at Cambridge and his experiences gained there and also in his tours undertaken during vacations. At this time he learnt to admire the poets like Chaucer. Spenser and Milton. At this time French Revolution made a deep and lasting impression on him. VII to XI are devoted to the description of wordsworth's enthusiasm for great revolution

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➤ The 1<sup>st</sup> 45 lines constitute the introduction to the prelude Main theme of 'The prelude' is 'The making of a poet'

Book I and II- Deals with poet's early love of nature and gradual growth of his awareness of it

III, IV, V - Student life at Cambridge

III - Concerns with his actual residence in college

V - Poet's attachment to books

VII - London life is reflected

VIII - Has a subtitle "Love of nature leading to love of man" and shows the relation bet man and Nature

IX, X, XI - Reveal the impact of French Revolution on the poet's emotional and intellectual make-up

XII, XIII, XIV- show how imagination absorbing all experiences and transcending it, links mankind with divine.

Prelude- 645 lines

Wordsworth himself did not choose any title for poem. His family and friends knew it only as 'a poem to Coleridge' Coleridge also refers to it as 'The Recluse and in 'The friend'. Edwin Morgan says "it is rightly named 'The prelude' because it is the prelude to an unwritten poem" Purpose of the poem two fold.

1. Self examination – to find out if he was really a poet who could write something of perennial value.

2. self- expression

The opening lines of the poem express the deep sense of joy and relief that Wordsworth felt after living the city of London for Racedown (valley) where he and Dorothy Wordsworth came to settle in the autumn of 1795 Wordsworth seems to have been influenced by the (18<sup>th</sup> philosopher David Hartley's "Theory of association". Acc to this theory the character of a man develops during childhood and youth as a direct result of his physical experiences and feelings of pleasure and pain from such experience. In the end Wordsworth states that he has succeeded in achieving at least one object i.e. his mind has been refreshed and rejuvenated. If this mood persists, he will soon be able to continue his tale of the later years. He feels contented that his path is clear for his theme is single moreover he hopes that his humbler Labour will be appreciated by his honored friend.

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### Prelude – I

- Wordsworth

- Autobiographical poem of 14 books.
- Intended to form part of a vast philosophical work called “The Recluse” which was never completed
- Commenced in 1799 and completed in 1805 but published a year after the poet’s death in 1850
- Complete record of Wordsworth’s development from his childhood days to the period of his maturity. In this work the poet describes his experience with a fullness, closeness and laborious anxiety.
- The poem is at places dull and prosy but at times particular when the poet dwells on the formative influences of nature.
- Composed in blank verse

Abercrombie says “The prelude is much more than an autobiography” story of universalsignificance It is story of the mind, greatly conscious of his own enigma, gradually establishing its secure relationship with the world equally enigmatic. This is the modern epic.

### My first acquaintance with poets

-William Hazlitt 1778-1830

### Autobiographical Essay

- An Essayist and critic
- The turning point in his intellectual development was his meeting with Coleridge in 1798.
- He definitely lurked to lit and in 1805 published his 1<sup>st</sup> book, “Essay on the principles of Human Action which was followed by various other philosophical and political essays. In 1812 he became parliamentary and dramatic reporter to the morning chronicle
- In 1814 he was a contributor to the Edinburgh Review
- In 1817 he published a volume of literary sketches ‘The round table’.
- His personalities shines like a mirror in the same in his essays like ‘my first acquaintance with poets’, on the pleasures of painting, on the feeling of immortality in youth, on a sun dial, on persons one would wish to have seen, Farewell to essay. writing, ongoing on a journey, merry England, on the fear etc.

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Jane Austen 1775-1817

Wrote 6 novels in about 27 years

Sense and sensibility – 1811

Pride and prejudice – finest novel

Mansfield park and Emma – 1815

Northanger abbey and persuasion – 1798

Emma

The heroine Emma woodhouse has wealth, social prestige, good looks and intelligence. But her good fortune and the admiration she elicits are in reality her greatest disadvantage. They blind her to the need for self-knowledge and self criticism. In what she imagines to be pure generosity of heart she sets about trying to control the fate of her orphan friend of illegitimate birth and insignificant character. Harriet Smith, imagine her to be the daughter of an aristocrat and desiring a marriage socially worthy of her paternity. Later she also becomes involved with a young man. Frank Churchill who unknown to her is secretly engaged to a girl Jane Fairfax, who is superior to Emma in talent but much inferior in worldly fortune.

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