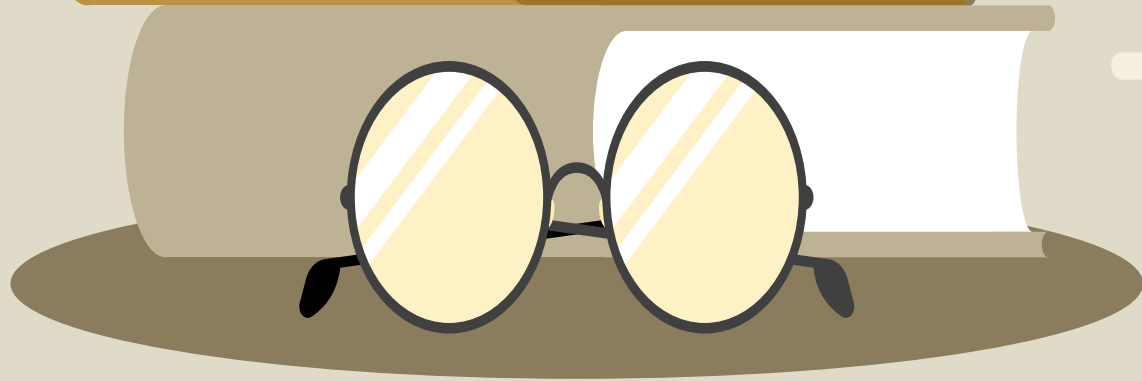
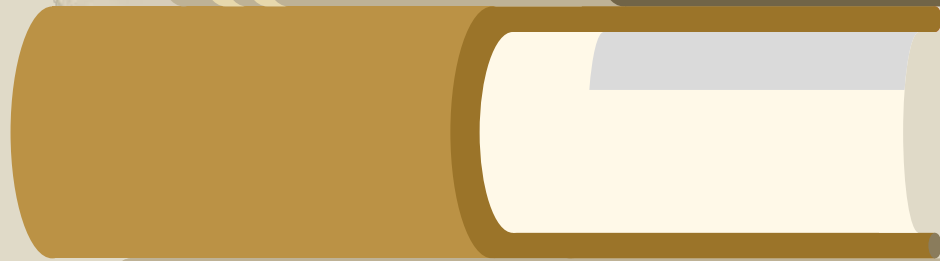




1 My Mother at Sixty-six

About the poet



About the poet



Kamala Das (1934-2009) was born in Malabar, Kerala. She is recognised as one of India's foremost poets. Her works are known for their originality, **versatility** and the **indigenous** flavour of the soil. Kamala Das has published many novels and short stories in English and Malayalam under the name 'Madhavikutty'.

Verity of skill

Native, Original

About the poet




Some of her works in English include the novel *Alphabet of Lust* (1977), a collection of short stories *Padmavati the Harlot and Other Stories* (1992), in addition to five books of poetry. She is a sensitive writer who captures the complex **subtleties** of human relationships in lyrical idiom, *My Mother at Sixty-six* is an example.

Delicate, Elusive



About the poet



Before you read


Ageing is a natural process; have you ever thought what our elderly parents expect from us?



To sleep lightly

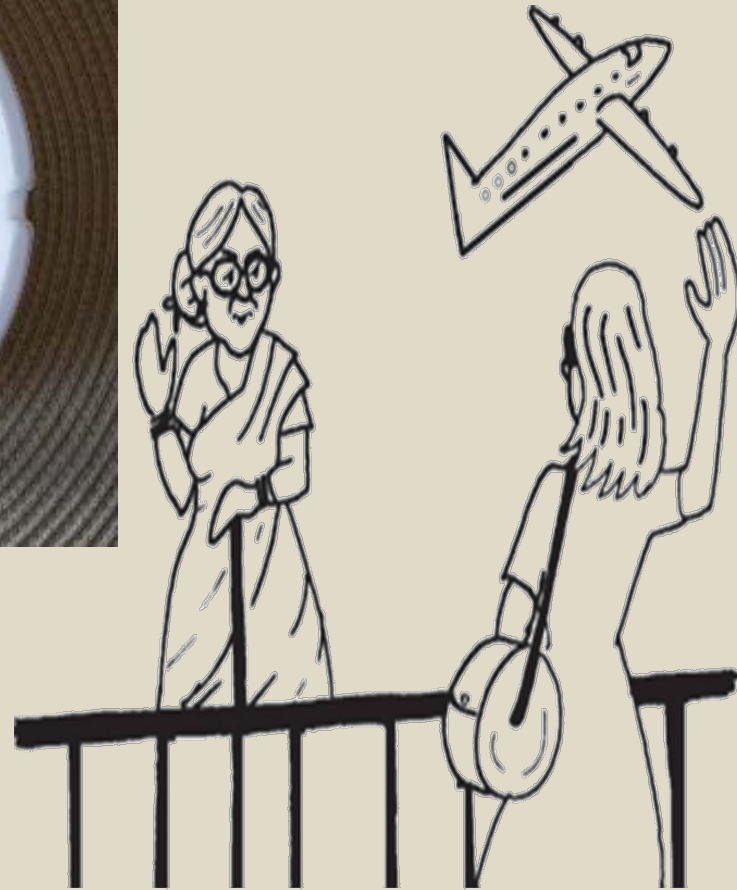
Simile

Driving from my parent's home to Cochin last Friday morning, I saw my mother, beside me, **doze**, open mouthed, **her face ashen like** that of a corpse and realised with pain that she was as old as she looked but soon put that thought away, and looked out at Young





Ashtray



Run with full capacity for a short distance

Trees sprinting, the merry children spilling out of their homes, but after the airport's security check, standing a few yards

Personification

Metaphor

Imagery

Simile



away, I looked again at her,
wan, pale
as a late winter's moon and
felt that old
familiar ache, my
childhood's fear, but all I
said was, see you soon,
Amma,
all I did was **smile and smile**
and smile.....

Repetition