

Anne Gregory



About the Poet

William Butler Yeats (1865-1939) was an Irish nationalist. He was educated in London and Dublin, and was interested in folklore and mythology. He won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1923





Introduction to the lesson

W.B. Yeats has tried to touch a very important topic through his poem. He says that it is almost impossible to find a person in your life who loves you truly. By saying truly, he means the one who loves you for your qualities and not your looks. He says that only God loves us for what we are from inside.

Summary of the poem

The poem is basically a conversation between the poet, Yeats and a young girl named Anne Gregory. The poet tells her that if she finds a young boy who becomes sad because of her rejection, it doesn't mean that he was a true lover. He could have been in love with her because of her beautiful yellow hair. This means that the boy might be in love with her because of her attractive looks. He says that a true lover will be the one who will love her for her inner qualities and not her looks.




Summary of the poem

To this, Anne says that she will change her looks by dying her hair into some other colour. She will become less attractive and then, maybe, she will find a true love for herself. So, at last, he explains to her that the previous night, he had heard some religious man saying that only God loves us for what we are. This means that God never loves us for our looks but for our inner beauty.



For Anne Gregory Poem and Explanation

**“Never shall a young man,
Thrown into despair
By those great honey-coloured
Ramparts at your ear,
Love you for yourself alone
And not your yellow hair.”**








Despair: sadness

Ramparts: The high, wide walls around a castle or fort, for example, the ramparts of the Red Fort

This poem is a conversation between the poet and a girl named Anne Gregory. The poet says to the girl that a young man can become hopeless, if you will reject him. But this doesn't mean that he had true love for you in his heart. It is because you have beautiful hair with which he had fallen in love. The girl has very beautiful hair.






They fall on her ears and seemingly protect them just like a boundary wall protects the fort. So, here, the poet is pointing out at the reality which many people face during their youth, that they are liked by the opposite gender, not because of their inner beauty but because of their appearance.




Literary Devices:

Rhyme Scheme: abcbdb


Metaphor: honey-coloured Ramparts at your ear (Anne's hair is compared to the ramparts of a fort)





**“But I can get a hair-dye
And set such colour there,
Brown, or black, or carrot,
That young men in despair
May love me for myself alone
And not my yellow hair.”**





Anne replies that she has a nice solution to this situation. She can dye her hair and change the colour into black, brown or carrot as this will no longer make her look less attractive. Then maybe she will find the young man who will love her inner beauty and not her appearance.

Literary Devices:

Rhyme Scheme: abcbdb

Alliteration: repetition of consonant ‘s’ sound at the start of two consecutive words.

(Set Such)





“I heard an old religious man

But yesternight declare

That he had found a text to prove

That only God, my dear,

Could love you for yourself alone

And not your yellow hair.”





Yesternight: the previous night

After hearing Anne Gregory, the poet says that he had heard an old religious man say that he could prove a fact with a text that he had found in some religious book. The fact was that it is only God who loves us for what we are and not how we look. He loves us for our inner qualities. Only God can do this.

Literary Devices:

Rhyme Scheme: abcbdb

Anaphora: Repeated use of a word at the beginning of two lines (That he....That only god)

Alliteration: he had, your yellow





**THANK
YOU**