

Modern Poetry 2020

## **"Ulysses"**

**by Alfred Tennyson**

**It** is a dramatic monologue in blank verse. It is like a soliloquy but in the presence of others.

The main idea :

Conquering a situation that threatens to bring a person down. Tennyson's Ulysses finds himself idle and restless after years of exploration and adventure.

A man yearning for his former life, keen to move on. It shows what is going on in his heart and mind.

### **Themes**

Time( Nostalgia): a desperate man yearning for his former life.

Shortness of life.

Death: contemplating on spiritual reality after death. He knows that death-in-life is intolerable. Death is unavoidable. For him, a meaningless, monotonous, and lazy life is a kind of death not only the physical death(or stop of breath).

Ageing: crucial issue for Modernists. It can be overcome by the help of will and ambition.

The poem is a dramatic monologue. It uses a mythic method relying on Homer's Odyssey.

It is a crisis lyric. Will he lead a boring and lazy life or the risky and noble life of surviving by his strength and will?

Studying Language( metaphors, paradoxes symbols, syntax, enjambment, colons and pauses .....etc.)

**A.E Housman**

**A Shropshire Lad**

**Loveliest Of Trees**

The poem has an exquisite classical verse- regular forms, great compression- devoted to the futility of life, the certainty of death , the certainty of nothing after death. The poem is about the beauty of nature in spring and winter being compared to the human life. The main idea is that life is too short. It shows obsession with age and consciousness of time.

## **W. B. Yeats**

### **A Coat**

It is a symbolist poem.

It talks about Yeats' wish to modernize himself. It declares a desire to abandon old forms and embrace more modern ones.

Walking naked implies abandoning false embroideries and adopting a simpler forms.

It introduces a major symbol , "the coat", which is associated with another symbol that is "the song". It is heavy and worn out. Walking Naked symbolizes the new way that the poet is going to adopt.

Regarding the form, the poem adopts a rhyme that gives music .

