



Subject : Appreciation of English Literary Texts

Week : 3rd Week, August, 2021

Grade : 10

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Breakfast (Jacques Prévert)

The Poet : Jacques Prévert

Prévert was born on 4 February 1900 and grew up in Paris. After completing his primary education, he quit school and went to work in a major department store in Paris. He was called up for military service in 1918. He died on 11 April 1977. He participated actively in the Realist movement. His poems are often about life in Paris and life after the Second World War. They are widely taught in schools in France and frequently appear in textbooks published worldwide.

Read the poem once and answer these questions.

1. The narrator observes the actions of 'He' silently. Which feelings do you experience when you read the first ten lines from the beginning?
2. How do your feelings change when you arrive at the eleventh line? "Without speaking to me"
Note the emotional feelings of 'I'.
3. The narrator continues to describe the actions of 'He'. What do you notice in his actions?
4. Note the development of emotions in the mind of the narrator.

✚ The narrator adds another line to her previous expression.

“ without speaking to me

without looking at me”

- ✚ We can clearly understand the frustrated feelings of the narrator. She expects at least a look from him.
- ✚ Note the actions of 'He' subsequently.
- ✚ It was raining outside. The rain has trapped 'Him' inside. Usually, the rain enhances the relationship of a couple. But here 'He' puts on the rain coat and goes out into the rain. We can

notice that ‘He’ attempts to move away from the company of ‘I’ where as ‘I ‘yearns for his company. This brings the narration to a climax.

- ✚ Note her emotions at the climax.

*“without a word
without a look”*

- ✚ Even a word from him may satisfy her.

- ✚ The poet concludes the poem with a resolution. She is not strong enough to do anything but weep.

*“.....I put
my head in my hands
and wept”*

Now try to answer these questions

1. What is the relationship between “I” and “he” of the poem?
2. What do you think of the scene depicted in the poem?
3. Compare and contrast the mood of the two people referred to in the poem?
4. What effect is created through the following lines? “ without speaking to me”, “without looking at me”, “ without a word”, “ without a look”
5. “I put /my head in my hands /and wept”. Why did the speaker react in this manner?
6. What are your views about the behaviour of “he”?
7. Why do you think the poet has used the background of “rain”?
8. What effect is created by the repetition of the word “I ‘’at the end of the poem?

Read the poem again, paying attention to the following questions:

1. What feelings do you experience when you read the poem? Analyze your feelings.
2. What is the tone of the last three lines?
3. What is your attitude towards “ I “ and “ He”
4. How is the relationship between “I” and “He “illustrated?
5. Which words highlight a restrained relationship between “I “and “He “?
6. Which techniques has the poet used in bringing out the theme?