

Class Notes: "And in Wonder and Amazement I Sing" by Rabindranath Tagore

Author Background

- **Rabindranath Tagore (1861-1941)**
 - Indian poet, fictionist, playwright, essayist, composer, and painter.
 - Won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1913 for his collection of poems "Gitanjali."
 - Author of the national anthems of India and Bangladesh.

Overview of the Poem

- **Title:** "And in Wonder and Amazement I Sing"
- **Theme:** The poem expresses feelings of wonder and amazement at the natural world.
- **Tone:** Reflective, joyful, and appreciative.

Structure

- The poem consists of several stanzas, each expressing the poet's awe at different aspects of nature and existence.

Key Literary Devices

- **Alliteration:** Repetition of initial consonant sounds in a line (e.g., "sun and the stars").
- **Metaphor:** Describing one thing as another to highlight similarities (e.g., "eternity's rushing tide").
- **Imagery:** Vivid descriptions that appeal to the senses (e.g., "blades of grass," "flowers' fragrance").

Key Lines and Their Meanings

- **"The sky is full of the sun and the stars"**
 - The sky is filled with celestial bodies, signifying the vastness and beauty of the universe.
- **"The universe is full of life"**
 - Life is abundant and diverse throughout the universe.

- **"I have felt its tug in my blood"**
 - The poet feels a deep, instinctual connection to the flow of life and time.
- **"While walking in the woodlands"**
 - The poet finds joy and surprise in the simple act of walking through nature.
- **"In the midst of the known I have sought the unknown"**
 - The poet seeks to explore beyond what is familiar and understood.

Discussion Points

- **Emotional Impact:** How does the poem make you feel? What emotions are evoked?
- **Nature's Wonders:** What elements of nature does the poet describe? How do they contribute to the theme of wonder?
- **Literary Devices:** How do alliteration, metaphor, and imagery enhance the poem's meaning?
- **Personal Connection:** How can we relate the poet's experiences to our own experiences with nature?

Comprehension Questions

1. Who is the author of the poem?
2. What is the main feeling expressed by the speaker in the poem?
3. What are some things in nature that the speaker mentions in the poem?
4. What does the speaker say he feels in his blood?
5. What does the speaker do while walking in the woodlands?
6. What does the speaker do to experience the world around him?
7. What is the repeated line in the poem?
8. What do you think "eternity's rushing tide" means?
9. What fills the speaker with joy and gladness according to the poem?
10. What does the speaker seek in the midst of the known?

Activities

1. **Reading Aloud:** Read the poem aloud to appreciate its rhythm and emotions.

2. **Group Analysis:** Work in groups to identify literary devices and discuss their impact.
3. **Creative Writing:** Write your own poem or paragraph inspired by nature, using literary devices.
4. **Illustration:** Draw an illustration that represents a scene or line from the poem.

Homework

- Write a short essay on how the poem reflects Tagore's view of nature and existence.
- Illustrate a favorite scene or line from the poem and explain why it resonates with you.