

# "The Money Box"

classmate

Date 30/07/20

Page 1

Dr. Mithilesh Kumar Manjhi  
Dept. of English  
J. N. College, Madhubani

Degree - II (English Hons)  
Paper - IV  
Lecture - I

## Explanation Technique of "The Money Box"

"These lines have taken from, an enlightening essay, "The Money Box" by Robert Lynd. Lynd is an illustrious essayist of the 20th century. He builds his essays out of mere trifles and makes them the occasion of benignant criticism of life. He is gifted with the confidential manner of the personal essayist. His essays combine the humour, reflectiveness and sympathy of Stevenson with the simplicity and charm of E. V. Lucas. "The Money Box", is a marvellous piece of essay, full of humour and wit. Lynd wrote under the pen name of 'Y. Y.'

In these lines, Lynd sets out to condemn those crafty parents who spoil the innocence of their children by getting them money boxes. At the same time, he also makes a dig at those 'misers' who are obsessed with idea of saving money in the guise of self-denial. He then goes on to expose the two basic instincts of human beings - the saving instinct and the spending instinct. According to Lynd each of us consists of two self selves - the self that wishes to spend - and one of them differs as much from

the other as a man does from his first cousin. Both these instincts militate against each other. It is, in fact, foolish to save money at the cost of one's life but the best people are those who save money for their children's career or for a noble cause. The worst are those who save money for no other purpose or reason than the pleasure of saving money. Such people deserve outright condemnation.

These lines show full of humour and wit. It is a marvellous piece of essay. Lynd's style is simple and less elaborate. He is rhetorical and humorous. He uses most concrete and impressive words and phrases. His illustrations are very homely and appropriate. He is fond of epigrams, ironies and pathos. The phrase 'selfish, self-denial' in the present essay ~~is~~ how Lynd can combine alliteration, onymoron and personification. His art of weaving the finest modulations and rhythmic patterns with his essay, simple and natural prose find its best expression in "The Money Box". "The Money Box" is like the delusion of wealth.