

Dream Children: A Reverie

classmate

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- Charles Lamb

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Explanation Technique

of

Dream Children: A Reverie

These lines have been taken from "Dream Children: A Reverie" by Charles Lamb. Lamb is a 19th century essayist. He is known as the prince among English essayists. He belongs to the class of intimate and self-revealing essayist like Montaigne and Cowley. He combines in him the massiveness of Bacon and rhythmic eloquence of Browne. His blending of humour and pathos is praiseworthy.

The essay begins with an interesting aspect of child-psychology - "children love to listen to stories about their elders, when they were children". Here the essayist imagines himself sitting before his own children, narrating to them the stories of his own grandmother. The dream children of Lamb, John and Alice, creep around him to listen to the story of their great-grandmother.

Field who lived in a great house at Norfolk. She was loved and respected by one and all. The children show their involvement in the story by responding with their gesture. Though she had been a tall, upright and graceful in her youth and was known as the best dancer, she remembered nearly the whole of the Bible. She was died of cancer. Her funeral was attended by all the poor and some of the gentry, too.

These lines show the art of essayists (art of) style. It is partly autobiographical and contains intimately personal details. Lamb's inability to Mary Ann Simmons (Portrayed as Alice) and his long life-long devotion to the his ailing sister are the facet of his life duly reflected in these lines. Lamb's unflinching expressiveness of language combined with a deep human touch both in the style and the content is remarkable revealed in the present lines.