

# E-Content

## British Literature IV

Semester: III

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Session 2020-2021



# School of Liberal Education

Course Code : ENG6006

Course Name: British Literature IV

## COURSE CONTENT UNIT-I

### **The Darkling Thrush: General Introduction**

- Was written in 1899 and first published on 29 December 1900 in *The Graphic*.
- Original title was “By the Century's Deathbed”
- A lyric poem written as an address (the ode)
- A poem of loss and melancholic in tone
- Shares Hardy's tone of pessimism

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## COURSE CONTENT UNIT-I

### The Darkling Thrush

I leant upon a coppice gate  
When Frost was spectre-grey,  
And Winter's dregs made desolate  
The weakening eye of day.  
The tangled bine-stems scored the sky  
Like strings of broken lyres,  
And all mankind that haunted night  
Had sought their household fires.

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## COURSE CONTENT UNIT-I

### The Darkling Thrush

The land's sharp features seemed to be  
The Century's corpse outleant,  
His crypt the cloudy canopy,  
The wind his death-lament.  
The ancient pulse of germ and birth  
Was shrunken hard and dry,  
And every spirit upon earth  
Seemed fervourless as I.

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### The Darkling Thrush

At once a voice arose among  
The bleak twigs overhead  
In a full-hearted evensong  
Of joy illimited;  
An aged thrush, frail, gaunt, and small,  
In blast-beruffled plume,  
Had chosen thus to fling his soul  
Upon the growing gloom.

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### The Darkling Thrush

So little cause for carolings  
Of such ecstatic sound  
Was written on terrestrial things  
Afar or nigh around,  
That I could think there trembled through  
His happy good-night air  
Some blessed Hope, whereof he knew  
And I was unaware.

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## COURSE CONTENT UNIT-I

### The Darkling Thrush: Setting

- Winter landscape (lifeless and grey) at the end of the millennium
- Beginning of the 20th century
- An Ode

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### The Darkling Thrush: Analysis

- The poem describes a desolate world
- Written in December 1900, it presents the end of the 19th century and a general state of Western world
- The desolation in the poem serves as a metaphor for the decay of Western civilization
- The thrush symbolises the rebirth
- The poem presents a strong similarity with Arnold's "Dover Beach"

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## COURSE CONTENT UNIT-I

### The Darkling Thrush: Themes

- Decline of Human Civilization
- Hope and renewal
- Despair and Isolation

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## COURSE CONTENT UNIT-I

### The Darkling Thrush: Poetic devices

- Personification
- Alliteration
- Metaphor
- Assonance
- Visual Imagery
- Poem written in iambic tetrameter and iambic tri-meter

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## COURSE CONTENT UNIT-I

### Bibliography

- Sanders, Andrew. *A Short Oxford History of English Literature*. OUP, 1994.
- Ford, Boris. *Pelican Guide to English Literature*. Penguin.
- <https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems/44325/the-darkling-thrush>

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## COURSE CONTENT UNIT-I

Course Code : XXXXX

Course Name: Data structures using C

# Thank You

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