

HOME BURIAL

-ROBERT BROWNING

- COURSE TITLE : AMERICAN LITERATURE
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- UNIT : I (POETRY)

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Introduction

- **Robert Lee Frost was a great American poet.**
- **He is highly regarded for his realistic depictions of rural life.**
- **'Home Burial' is one of the greatest creation of him.**



Form

- **Dramatic or pastoral lyric poem in the terms of form, using free-form dialogue rather than strict rhythmic schemes.**
- **Frost generally uses five stressed syllables in each line and divides stanzas in terms of lines of speech.**
- **Frost splits the iambic pattern in lines 18 and 19, which both emphasizes the couple's relative positions physically and provides a graphic illustration of just how far apart they are.**

Summary

- **In this poem Frost described an anxious conversation between a rural husband and wife whose child has recently died.**
- **Wife is standing and looking at her child's grave through the window.**
- **It is a poem about the love of a mother to her child. She has lost her all hopes.**

- **She becomes very excited and sorrowful but her husband is very normal.**
- **He think that, it is the rule of nature and nobody can escape it.**
- **So, he is very easy and normal but his wife does not agree with him.**
- **She does not want to stay with him in this house because his husband has buried her child in this house.**

Development of Thought

- **The death of a young child**
- **The death of a marriage**
- **The title “Home Burial”, can be read as a tragic double entendre.**
- **The death of the child is the substance of the couple’s problems, the larger clash that destroys the marriage is the couple’s inability to interconnect with each other.**
- **The husband is more accepting of the natural cycle of life and death in general. (by digging the grave for his child)**

Setting

- **The setting of the poem is a staircase with a door at the bottom and a window at the top.**
- **The wife stands at the top of the stairs, directly in front of the window overlooking the graveyard**
- **The husband stands at the bottom of the stairs, looking up at her.**

Theme

The theme of 'Home Burial' by Robert Frost is the misapprehension between a husband and a wife.

Critical Appreciation

- The behavior of a man and a women.
- The women are emotional.
- Example :
Shakespeare says, 'Frailty thy name is woman.'
- The author has to announce that, a woman is not a woman but a mother.

- **So the wife of the husband is very sad for the death of her child.**
- **Actually it is not the fault of the wife to misunderstand her husband; it is the nature of a lady.**
- **On the other hand, a man has two powers; one is emotion and another is action.**
- **Husband tries to control his wife with his emotion but when he fails he applies force or action.**