



CLASS X
ENGLISH LITERATURE READER
POETRY : CHAPTER 5
PRELUDES
(T.S. ELIOT)

NOTES

SUMMARY

In the poem “Preludes”, T.S. Eliot portrays a picture of a winter evening in a city, the time of the day when people are returning home from work during a rainstorm. It is a dirty, sinister, pungent, lonely place filled with waste.

The poet again describes the morning scene of the city. Here, the people are seen rising from the bed and marching to their work place. “Stale smell of beer”, surrounds the workers as they stamp down the “sawdust trampled street” with their muddy feet. The atmosphere is one of “hangover” after a night of wickedness. All the people are ready to start the daily pretence of life- the dull monotonous life. Life goes on but it is a meaningless ritual.

POETIC DEVICE USED IN THE POEM

Metaphor:

- “The burnt-out ends of smoky days”
- “With the other masquerades that time resume”

Personification:

- “The winter evening”
- “The morning comes to consciousness”
- With the other masquerades

Hyperbole:

- “In a thousand furnished rooms”

Alliteration:

- “Morning comes to consciousness”
- “Stale smell of beer”
- “Sawdust-trampled street”