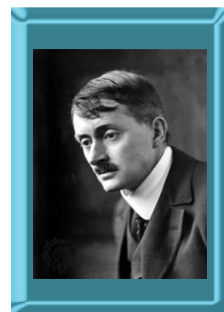


BEAUTY

John Edward Masefield



John Edward Masefield, (1878 –1967) was an English poet and writer, and Poet Laureate from 1930 until his death in 1967. He is remembered as the author of the classic children's novels *The Midnight Folk* and *The Box of Delights*, 19 other novels (including *Captain Margaret*, *Multitude* and *Solitude* and *Sad Harker*), and many memorable poems, including "The Everlasting Mercy" and "Sea-Fever", from his anthology *Saltwater Ballads*.



The poet seems to be enthralled by the beauty of his beloved. He compares her to all the bounties of nature but finds her the most beautiful.

I have seen dawn and sunset on moors and windy hills;
 Coming in solemn beauty like slow old tunes of Spain.
 I have seen the lady April bringing the daffodils;
 Bringing the springing grass and the soft warm April rain.
 I have heard the song of the blossoms and chant of the sea;
 And seen strange lands from under arched white sails of ships.
 But the loveliest things of beauty God ever has showed to me.
 Are her voice, and her hair, and eyes, and the dear red curve of her lips.

Glossary

solemn /'sɒləm/

serious and without any amusement.

spring (v) /sprɪŋ/

to move quickly and suddenly towards a particular place.

blossoms /'blɒs.əmz/

the state of flowering.

chant tʃɑːnt

sing.

arch ɑːtʃ

a structure consisting of a curved top on two supports.

curve kɜːv

turn.

Understanding the Poem

1. What are the various things of beauty the speaker has seen?
2. What are the loveliest of all these things God has shown to the poet?
3. To whom do the words in the last line refer to ?
4. Why does the poet compare dawn and sunset to slow old tunes?
5. How does God's creation appear to the poet?

Learning about the literary device/s

1. What does the poet mean by the song of the blossoms? What does it symbolise?
2. What is the contrast between the last line and the rest of the poem? What does it suggest ?

Discussion

1. How does the poet describe beautiful things?
2. What is your idea of beauty? Share your thoughts with your group mates.

Suggested Reading

Ode on a Grecian Urn by John Keats.

Life and Death by John Masefield.

Quote to remember

A thing of beauty is a joy for ever.

John Keats