

الشرايح المهمة بالمحاضره الثالثه المباشره لمادة ادب اطفال

✓ However, in the next lectures and as we began the real study of the novel, two other approaches had to be introduced.

These are:

✓ **Feminism & railways**



- ✓ The characteristics of the genre
- ✓ Feminism
- ✓ The importance of railways
- ✓ The text itself



Our Focus

✓ Before discussing these 2 issues here let me say that like in *Animal Farm*, we focussed on the relationship between the poem and the course of the novel. I mean the poem mother writes at the start when Father is being taken away and Peter falls ill. Very symbolic poem indeed.

✓ The following table gives us a sample idea about the comparison:

Please turn the page

The novel and the poem

The poem	The novel
<p>He had an engine that he • loved With all his heart and soul, And if he had a wish on earth It was to keep it whole.</p>	<p>They had a family that they loved so much and wanted to keep this kind of happiness for ever</p>
<p>One day--my friends, prepare your minds; I'm coming to the worst-- Quite suddenly a screw went mad, And then the boiler burst! With gloomy face he picked it up And took it to his Mother,</p>	<p>The dreadful change came quite suddenly. After telling us about this perfect family we are told that something serious event will change the life of the whole family dramatically. Mother at once takes responsibility for the family.</p>

Approaches

So far, we have been trying to understand the novel as an example of children's literature.

•However, we need to think all the time of the following very important approaches which we will come across many times:

✓ The characteristics of children's literature

Feminism

Railways and how effective they were on the life of people in the 19th century

Approaches

☐ Feminism

- ☐ It means the interest in women and women's issues, in the good, interests, hope, ambitions, dilemma, disappointment of women.
- ☐ It also deals mainly with how women have been subjected and suppressed by men.
- ☐ To understand all this we tried to understand the famous quotation by **Charlotte Bronte in her *Jane Eyre*.**

Approaches

•Women are supposed to be very calm generally: but women feel just as men feel; they need exercise for their faculties, and a field for their efforts, as much as their brothers do; they suffer from too rigid a restraint, too absolute a stagnation, precisely as men would suffer; and it is narrow-minded in their more privileged fellow-creatures to say that they ought to confine themselves to making puddings and knitting stockings, to playing on the piano and embroidering bags.

•**Charlotte Bronte, *Jane Eyre***

Approaches

- ✓ In the 19th century, both men and women were suppressed . They lived in stagnation. They needed freedom.
- ✓ Men thought that women do not have any faculties or energies.
- ✓ Men regarded the place of women to be home and only home.
- ✓ Women are not different from men in wanting change and in desiring the expression of their powers.
- ✓ **Charlotte Bronte, *Jane Eyre***

Approaches

- ✓ In *The Railway Children*, we are told in an indirect way of this eternal struggle between men and women.
- ✓ **We are also told of how women do their best to achieve themselves and to arrive at self-assertion which is the essence of Feminism.**
- ✓ **Mother is different from all 19th century mothers.**
- ✓ **She may not have to work away from home now, but she gives almost all her time to her family, feeling very responsible for them.**

Approaches

Mother has brought up her children in a very decent way. She has given them the major values they live upon when they grow up alone without Father. Examples: when Peter asks Ruth the servant about Father and later on he feels very sorry because kids are not supposed to do so. Also when he and Roberta quarrel in the absence of Mother. They soon realize that this is not nice and become friends again. They tell some family secrets to the station master. They steal coal from the station, and they apologize and understand that all this is wrong.

Approaches

- ✓ Another aspect of Feminism is the continuous struggle between Peter as a boy and his sisters. We have had an example in Chapter one when Peter asks Father if girls can mend engines too.
- ✓ The wise Father (also the wise author) says that girls are as fit as boys. He talks to Roberta and Phil about that too.
- ✓ Peter says (a germ of endearment) in chapter one too in order to show up as the man of the house. It is funny because we know that the real phrase is (a term of endearment)

Approaches

- ✓ Another way of showing Mother as the perfect example of the WOMAN idealized by the author is in the contrast we have between her and Ruth and aunt Emma.

Approaches

Ruth	Aunt Emma	Mother
Redheaded	Disorganized	Pretty and clean
Rough	Does not play with the kids	Almost always there
Rash , reckless	Stays away from kids	Wise
Uses indecent words	Insults children	Very sweet with kids
Not educated	A governor	A writer, a poet, so cultured
Driven away from the house	Travels to Germany, rescued only by Mother	A real example to follow even when she is sick or busy