



# ADITYA ENGINEERING COLLEGE

An Autonomous Institution

Approved by AICTE • Permanently Affiliated to JNTUK • Accredited by NAAC with 'A' Grade

Recognised by UGC under sections 2(f) and 12(B) of UGC Act, 1956

Aditya Nagar, ADB Road, Surampalem - 533437, Near Kakinada, E.G.Dt., Ph:99498 76662

## DEPARTMENT OF HUMANITIES AND BASIC SCIENCES

### Lecture Notes

#### THE WOODROSE

(*Abburi Chayadevi*)

#### 1. Explain the summary of The Wood Rose?

Abburi Chayadevi was a Telugu fiction writer; she won the Sahitya Academy Award in Telugu for the Year 2005, for her work **Tana Margam**. Chaya Devi was the wife of the late Abburi Varadarajeswara Rao, himself a writer, critic and former Chairman, Official Languages Commission. She was born Abburi Chayadevi on 13 October 1933 in Rajahmundry, East Godavari district, Andhra Pradesh and died on 28 June 2019 in Hyderabad, Telangana.

The Wood rose' is a story of an aged widow & her relationship with her son & daughter- in law. She feels disconnected with them as there is no warmth in their relationship. She's on perpetual 'rest' as the daughter- in law doesn't let her in the kitchen. The narrator sits in the evening everyday at balcony and watches passers-by.

She thought that the old age would be a state of happiness, short sleep, reclining in an armed chair, playing with her grandchildren, narrating tales and prattling with her grandchildren, gossiping with friends and relatives. She realised that there is a great difference between spending old age in urban and rural areas.

Wood rose is creeper, her daughter-in-law said that wood rose is like bell shaped yellow flowers in the middle of the flowers there is a sandal wood colour and finally it is like roses. These flowers do not give fragrance but they are very beautiful. The narrator thought that instead of planting wood rose if we plant Sannajaji creeper planted, one can adorn one's hair, and can be given to newly married couples and if ash guard plant is planted the fruits can be distributed to neighbours. The narrator suggested to her daughter in law to grow brinjal or lady's finger plants instead of crotons and cacti plants.

One day her son Gopalam pull down the wood rose creeper as it spread over the grill, veranda, begins to block the light and crawled densely over the terrace. The narrator shouted at his son Gopalam to stop cutting but he did not heed the words of his mother and shouted at her.

She remembered the love and affection of Gopalam that he had showed on the narrator when he was young. He could not bear his father words on her mother. He used to say that he would spare her from drudgery of cooking.

Finally, she thought that would be pushed a side like the stone grinder to a corner. She thought that affection between human being should not grow as densely as that wood rose creeper; if it does their children would uproot it.

## **THE COP AND THE ANTHEM**

***-O. Henry***

### **1. Explain the summary of the cop and the anthem**

O. Henry was an American writer whose short stories are known for wit, wordplay and clever twist endings. He wrote nearly 600 stories about life in America. He published 12 stories while in prison. He moved to New York City in 1902 and wrote a story a week for the New York World, and also for other publishers. His first collection of stories was "Cabbages and Kings" (1904).

Soapy was the hero of the story. Soapy is sitting on a bench in Madison Square Park when a dead leaf falls on him. All he wants is to spend three months at Blackwell's Island. He wants to spend the winter in the penitentiary (Jail) on the Island to avoid the cold.

First, Soapy goes to a fancy restaurant on Broadway Avenue. His first attempt to get there is to dine in an expensive restaurant and to tell the waiter afterwards that he cannot pay the bill. When Soapy goes into the restaurant the head waiter has thrown him out directly because of his outward appearance.

For his second attempt he throws a stone into a shop window. But this attempt also fails because the policeman doesn't believe that a real "lawbreaker" would stay still waiting to let him voluntarily be arrested and when the policeman sees a man running along the road, he assumes that the running man must be the guilty person and pursues that man.

In his third attempt Soapy eats in a restaurant and says afterwards that he cannot pay the bill. But the waiter doesn't call the police and isn't interested in Soapy anymore...

When Soapy discovers a young woman near a policeman he sees his chance to get into prison. He walks towards the woman in order to harass her but she behaves as if she wanted to talk to Soapy at the same moment and hangs on to him so much that he must shake her off at the next corner.

Because this attempt fails he behaves as if he were drunk in the proximity of a policeman. But the policeman ignores Soapy because all the policemen had been informed that the students from Yale are celebrating a party that night.

Even his sixth attempt namely stealing a man's umbrella, fails because the man had stolen the umbrella from somebody else before.

When Soapy walks along the road he suddenly stops in front of a church. The atmosphere created by the light shining through the coloured windows of the church and also by the organ music to be heard on the road outside the church makes Soapy start thinking about his life. At the same moment as Soapy decides to start a new life a policeman comes towards him and arrests him because he is not allowed to stand there.

Soapy is condemned to three months in prison as he had wanted it all the time!