

Ageing in Literature: Global South and Global North Perspectives
“Tattered Coat or Magic Stick: Imagining Old Age through Literature from Global South and Global North”

Keki N. Daruwalla, ‘Nurse and Sentinel’

Discussion Points

1. Why does the poet say 'you never mentioned / deadpans and things'?
2. What does the poet mean by 'time is a disenchantress'?
3. What does the concluding retort about 'looking after the living' do vis a vis the detailed account of rituals of death which the mother approves of?
4. Why and how does 'nurse' connect with 'sentinel', since the nurse has a specific function of caring for the sick?
5. Is caring/caregiving gendered in this poem? Is this reflected in societies in the global north and south?
6. How does this poem relate to ‘decline narratives’?

William Butler Yeats, ‘An Acre of Grass’

Discussion Points

1. How does the comparison of the ageing body with an old house work?
2. What does the poet mean by ‘my temptation is quiet’?
3. The question of remaking, even at an advanced age.
4. The old man still has a task: of raising the dead men.