



# The Darkling Thrush

By Thomas Hardy

FSc-Part I | English

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## Text- Stanza I

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I leant upon a coppice gate  
When *Frost* was spectre-grey,  
And *Winter's* dregs made desolate  
The weakening eye of day.  
The tangled bine-stems scored the sky  
Like strings of broken lyres,  
And all mankind that haunted nigh  
Had sought their household fires.





## Text- Stanza II



The land's sharp features seemed to be  
The Century's corpse outlean,  
His crypt the cloudy canopy,  
The wind his death-lament.  
  
The ancient pulse of germ and birth  
Was shrunken hard and dry,  
And every spirit upon earth  
Seemed feverousless as I.



## Text- Stanza III

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At once a voice arose among  
The bleak twigs overhead  
In a full-hearted evensong  
Of joy illimitated;  
  
An aged thrush, frail, gaunt, and small,  
In blast-beruffled plume,  
Had chosen thus to fling his soul  
Upon the growing gloom.



## Text- Stanza IV

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So little cause for carolings  
Of such ecstatic sound  
Was written on terrestrial things  
Afar or nigh around,  
That I could think there trembled through  
His happy good-night air  
Some blessed Hope, whereof he knew  
And I was unaware.



## Class Activity

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1. Find all the **literary devices** in the poem (2 stanzas) and **underline** them.
2. What is the mood or atmosphere created in the opening of the poem?
3. How does Hardy describe the setting and season in the first stanza?
4. What does the phrase “The Century’s corpse outleant” symbolize?
5. How does the poet’s mood reflect the condition of nature?
6. What images or words show that the scene is lifeless and gloomy?

# Home Task

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- Write a short **Summary** of the poem in your own words