

AKSHIRAA COACHING CENTRE - UG TRB - ENGLISH STUDY MATERIAL



AKSHIRAA COACHING CENTRE

SALEM – 636004

(REG NO: TN-20-0012039)

UG TRB EXAM

(ENGLISH ONLY)

for the post of

BT Assistants (Graduate Teachers)

SALIENT FEATURES

- ☞ Well Trained Professors
- ☞ Excellent Coaching
- ☞ Unit wise Materials
- ☞ All Previous TRB Questions
- ☞ Slip Test, Unit Test, Revision Test, Model Test

Website: www.akshiraa.com

Email: akshiraa@gmail.com

Contact: 9487976999

AKSHIRAA COACHING CENTRE - UG TRB - ENGLISH STUDY MATERIAL**Unit X - Women's Writing in English**

S. No	Title	P. No
	Prose	
01	Sojourner Truth's Ain't I a woman?	3
02	Mary Wollstonecraft's A Vindication of the Rights of Woman: with Strictures on Political and Moral Subjects	6
	Poetry	
03	Judith Wright's Request to a Year	25
04	Sylvia Plath's Medusa	32
05	Kamala Das' The Old Playhouse	39
06	Supata Bhattacharya's Draupadi	43
07	Maya Angelou's Still I Rise	46
08	Glady Cardiff's Combing	51
09	Gwendolyn Brooks' A Sunset of the City	54
	Drama	
10	Susan Glaspell's Trifles	59
11	Caryl Churchill's Top Girls	82
	Fiction	
12	Ruth Praver Jhabvala's Heat and Dust	106
	Short Stories	
13	Charlotte Perkins Gilman's The Yellow Wallpaper	115
14	Ambai's Forest	134

AKSHIRAA COACHING CENTRE - UG TRB - ENGLISH STUDY MATERIAL**5. Kamala Das' The Old Playhouse****8. Kamala Das****Life**

- Kamala Das was born on 31st March 1934 and her original name was **Kamala Surayya**.
- A part of her childhood was spent in her ancestral home in **Malabar, Kerala** and the other part in **Calcutta** where her father was posted for work.
- Her mother **Balamani Amma** was a famous poet and her grand uncle **Nalapat Narayana Menon** a respected writer.
- She was married off to **Madhava Das**, an employee at the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** at the age of 15 and moved to **Bombay** with her husband
- On account of her extensive contribution to the poetry she is known as '**The Mother of Modern Indian English Poetry**'.
- She has also been likened to literary greats like **Sylvia Plath** because of the **confessional** style of her writing.
- Kamala Das died in **Pune**, on 31st May 2009, at the age of 75.

Works

- She wrote regularly for the popular weekly **Malayalanadu**.
- In 1973, her autobiography '**Ente Kadha**' (**My Story**) was released in Malayalam. It consisted of a compilation of her weekly columns in Malayalanadu that had already become a sensation across the state.
- In **1988**, fifteen years later, the work was translated into **English** with more text added, many parts rewritten and published with the title '**My Story**'.
- 1977 - Alphabet of Lust (novel)
- 1992 - Padmavati the Harlot and other stories (short story collection)
- 1965 - Summer in Calcutta (First poetry collection)
- In Malayalam, her works include Balyakalasmarnakal (The Memories of Childhood) and Chandanamarangal (Sandalwood Trees)

AKSHIRAA COACHING CENTRE - UG TRB - ENGLISH STUDY MATERIAL

Awards

She won

- The P.E.N.'s Asian Poetry Prize in 1963
- The Kerala Sahitya Academy Award in 1969 for the short story **Thanuppu** (Cold)
- The National Sahitya Academy Award in 1985
- She was also **shortlisted** for the **Nobel Prize for Literature** in 1984

Notes

- Her works have been translated into numerous foreign languages including French and German.
- Kamala Das was one of the most prominent feminist voices in the postcolonial era. She wrote in her mother tongue Malayalam as well as in English.
- To her Malayalam readers she was Madhavi Kutty and to her English patrons she was Kamala Das.
- She is known for her honest treatment of **female sexuality without guilt**. Her themes include **love, betrayal and anguish**.

AKSHIRAA COACHING CENTRE - UG TRB - ENGLISH STUDY MATERIAL

The Old Playhouse

Title:

- ❖ The Old Playhouse

Genre:

- ❖ Poem
- ❖ Confessional poem

Time:

- ❖ First published in '*The Illustrated Weekly of India*'
- ❖ Published in the collection '*The Old Playhouse and Other Poems*' in 1973

Locale:

- ❖ Kamala Das in her husband's house

Stanza:

- ❖ Free Verse

Source:

- ❖ Kamala Das' personal relationship with her husband

Theme:

- ❖ **Disharmony in marital relationship**
- ❖ Protest against male domination
- ❖ Attack on patriarchy
- ❖ Failure and frustration in love and marriage
- ❖ **Freedom and self-identity**

Tone:

- ❖ Gloomy and pessimistic

AKSHIRAA COACHING CENTRE - UG TRB - ENGLISH STUDY MATERIAL

Text

You planned to tame a swallow, to hold her
In the long summer of your love so that she would forget
Not the raw seasons alone, and the homes left behind, but
Also her nature, the urge to fly, and the endless
Pathways of the sky. It was not to gather knowledge
Of yet another man that I came to you but to learn
What I was, and by learning, to learn to grow, but every
Lesson you gave was about yourself. You were pleased
With my body's response, its weather, its usual shallow
Convulsions. You dribbled spittle into my mouth, you poured
Yourself into every nook and cranny, you embalmed
My poor lust with your bitter-sweet juices. You called me wife,
I was taught to break saccharine into your tea and
To offer at the right moment the vitamins. Cowering
Beneath your monstrous ego I ate the magic loaf and
Became a dwarf. I lost my will and reason, to all your
Questions I mumbled incoherent replies. The summer
Begins to pall. I remember the rudder breezes
Of the fall and the smoke from the burning leaves. Your room is
Always lit by artificial lights, your windows always
Shut. Even the air-conditioner helps so little,
All pervasive is the male scent of your breath. The cut flowers
In the vases have begun to smell of human sweat. There is
No more singing, no more dance, my mind is an old
Playhouse with all its lights put out. The strong man's technique is
Always the same, he serves his love in lethal doses,
For, love is Narcissus at the water's edge, haunted
By its own lonely face, and yet it must seek at last
An end, a pure, total freedom, it must will the mirrors
To shatter and the kind night to erase the water.

AKSHIRAA COACHING CENTRE - UG TRB - ENGLISH STUDY MATERIAL

Summary:

- ⊙ According to the poet, **her husband has planned to tame a bird (the poet) by holding it** in the long summer of his fake love so that she may forget the seasons (spring, winter, autumn) and her home which she left behind her for him.
 - **He has also made her forget her nature, her desire to fly freely, and to explore the opportunities in the infinite spaces of the sky.**
- ⊙ She says that she married him not to gather knowledge about her husband but **she expected opportunities for self-discovery and self-growth by learning.**
 - However, what her husband taught her was about himself.
- ⊙ **He was pleased with her body's response, its physical state and its usual shallow bodily movements.**
 - He kissed her lips so hard and he dribbled spittle into her mouth.
 - He penetrated himself every part of her body.
 - **He embalmed her poor lust with his bitter-sweet juices.**
 - But he never tried to explore her soul and never loved her.
- ⊙ **He called her as wife.**
 - She was taught to add saccharine into his tea and to offer healthy food items at the right moment.
- ⊙ After getting married to him, she was reduced to a slave to his monstrous ego.
 - **She ate the magic loaf and became a dwarf.**
 - She lost her will power and reasoning ability.
 - Being mentally disturbed, her replies were incoherent to all his questions.
- ⊙ She says that **the summer begins to pall** i.e. the joy of her life is going to end because her husband has killed her desires.
 - She hears the rough wind of the autumn and the smoke from the burning leaves.
- ⊙ **She says that his room is always lit by artificial lights and windows always shut.**
 - Even the air-conditioner helps so little.
 - She can smell only the male scent of his breath.
 - The cut flowers in the vases have begun to smell of human sweat.
- ⊙ **There is no more singing, no more dance** i.e. there is no joy in her life.
 - **Her mind is an old playhouse with all its lights put out.**

AKSHIRAA COACHING CENTRE - UG TRB - ENGLISH STUDY MATERIAL

- ⊙ The strong man's technique is always the same i.e. the dominance of patriarchy is always there.
- **Her husband serves his love in lethal doses.**
 - She refers to the lustful love of her husband which gives her a death-like experience.
- ⊙ The poet compares the love between her and her husband **to the Narcissus at the water's edge.**
- Narcissus is a mythological figure who falls in love with his own reflection which haunted him, causing him to death.
 - Likewise, the love will also suffer destruction as it is self-obsessed.
 - **It must seek at last a pure, total freedom.**
 - It will have to break the mirrors and bring the night to erase the water.
 - **In other words, it will also kill the poet before dying.**
- ⊙ Kamala Das now feels tortured by her desire for love which she never got from her husband.
- She can end the torture only by obtaining a release from the domination of her husband.
 - She thinks that the release may be achieved through death.