
A judicious analysis of *The Nightingale and the Rose* for people of fifteen
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Abstract: Wilde's parodic fairy tale *The Nightingale and the Rose* is often considered a critical enigma due to its artistic ambiguity. The teller himself has restricted his tale to 'childlike people between eighteen and eighty'. The target population of this study consists of fifteen year old students who are embarking on the path of appreciating literature in Sri Lanka and the tale is contained in their anthology. It is a rich artifact due to its dexterity of plot, multiple themes, dramatics and the powerful poetics in discourse. Analyzing the short story with intricate motifs woven into its fabric this study depicts it as an aesthetic experiment with an inherent transformative power. Yet pedagogic caution is a requisite as Wilde himself has stated that the tale has 'many secrets, many meanings and many answers' embedded in it. Judicious analysis of Wilde's tale will make the young adults explore some age relevant secrets, meanings and answers while discovering the beauty of his art.

Keywords: *Appreciating literature, fifteen year old students, pedagogic caution, The Nightingale and the Rose.*