

Hello learners, today we will

learn about the poem by Kamala Das.

An introduction to start with.

We will first acquaint \*\*\*\*\* with the

brief biographic details of Kamala Das.

Then we will appreciate the poem.

And elaborate the meaning and find out the

hidden meaning of the poem An Introduction.

Learning outcomes by the end of the module,

the learners will be able to.

Read and understand the poem

acquaint themselves with a brief,

biographic details of the poet that

is Kamala Das and at the same time

appreciate the poem based on its structure,

themes and poetic devices.

Kamala Das,

is recognized as one of the

most influential female poets.

And she has written for the cause

of feminism in the 1960s and 70s.

She was born on 31st March, 1934 in Kerala.

She was born to VM Nair and Balamani

Amma- a renowned malayali poet.

She is popularly known by her

pen name Madhavikutty.

At a very early age she was

married to a bank officer.

Her noted works include

Summer in Calcutta, My story,

many more.

She also received many awards like

Kent Award , the Academy Award,  
many more.

In the year 1999, she embraced Islam.

And became Kamala Surraiya.

She died on 31st May, 2009

at a hospital in Pune.

Now let us start with the

poem An Introduction.

I do not know politics, but I know the names.

This poem is written in 1965 and is

from her collection Summer in Calcutta.

It is a confessional poem.

She writes that she does

not know much about politics,

but she can name a few politicians

which shows her little interest that

she can speak about.

This is a confessional poem,

and she asserts that

though she does not know much about politics,

she can name a few politicians.

In these lines,

she is trying to state that the

status of women in Indian society

is such that they are ignorant of

the things happening around them and

because of that they are dominated

by their male counterparts.

I'm an Indian, very Brown,

born in Malabar.

In these next few lines she is talking

about her identity that she is an

Indian and she flaunts her Brown colour

rather being ashamed of it.

She is very proud to be an Indian.

She speaks of her freedom.

She says that she has the freedom to speak.

In the language that she is comfortable in.

She thinks that it is her right to dream,

to speak,

to think and read in the language

that she feels right for her.

She feels that her dreams and

aspirations can be expressed

in the language of her choice.

She uses the term 'they'

to point to the patriarchal society,

the voices of the patriarchal Society

which directs the women in the Society.

She also compares her language to the

language of the natural World order,

Animal World,

and she says that those voices

and those sounds

are instinctive but her voice,

her language is honest and full

of her sentiments and emotions.

I was a child and they told

me I grew up- in these lines

she expresses her own experience

of growing up.

Here she tells that people tell her about

her growth,

they tell her that she has grown

up on the basis of her physical

attributes or her physical growth.

But at heart she is still a child.

Those sentiments,

those emotions are not given

any importance in the society

and she feels hurt by that.

She says when she asked for love,

she was taken into a bedroom as a child.

She feels that her body has been abused,

used and she feels that she has

been betrayed in that relationship as well.