

CLASS- VII

Poem- Break, Break, Break

Poet - Alfred Lord Tennyson

SUMMARY

Alfred, Lord Tennyson (1809-1892) is considered among the finest and most popular of Victorian poets. He attended Trinity College, Cambridge where he befriended Hallam who helped him come out of his shell) Tennyson was selected poet laureate in succession to Wordsworth in 1850.

This poem is considered to have been written when the poet was moping the death of his dear friend, Hallam. The speaker is looking at the ocean wishing he knew how to express his grief. The usually enjoyable sights at the seaside refuse to cheer the poet up. He sees a fisherman's son playing with his sister, and he hears a sailor singing, but they don't cheer him up.

Everything he sees reminds him of his friend, whom he cannot see or hear or talk to anymore.

The ocean waves keep breaking on the beach and time keeps marching on, but the speaker cannot go back in time to when his friend was still alive.