

his dream:

ž **Desire of marrying Ann:**

Lamb wanted to marry Ann; the lady to whom he proposed. However, she rejected Lamb's proposal and married Bartrum instead. In his dream, Lamb sees a little girl Alice who looks like Ann. This reflects Lamb's desire of marrying Ann.

ž **Desire of having Children:**

Lamb did not marry in his life, as he had a mentally sick sister to take care of, as well as that the lady he wanted to marry rejected his proposal. However, Lamb longed to have a wife and wanted to have children. This desire of Lamb is evident from the very title of his essay "Dream Children".

ž **Desire of having a responsible brother:**

Lamb's elder brother did not support them and never took the responsibility of his sick sister. In the form of John L – taking care of the lame footed boy in Lamb's dream, we

responsibility of his sick sister. In the form of John L – taking care of the lame-footed boy in Lamb’s dream, we observe Lamb’s desire of having his brother as a responsible and caring person towards Lamb and their sister.

Themes:

Children Psychology:

In the essay *Dream Children*, we say Lamb beautifully depicting children’s psychology as he narrates his dream. Consider the following extract from the essay:

“...here Alice’s little right foot played an involuntary movement, till, upon my looking grave, it desisted”

In the above extract, Lamb tells about children’s restless and impatient nature. It is hard for children to sit still and concentrate on what is told to them. In agitation, they start looking here and there, and move their limbs to satisfy themselves. However, when they find someone noticing them, they immediately cease to move.

Following is another such example:

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“Here John slyly deposited back upon the plate a bunch of grapes, which, not unobserved by Alice, he had meditated dividing with her, and both seemed unwilling to relinquish them for the present as irrelevant”

In the above lines, Lamb depicts that food always baits children’s attention. Nothing attracts them more than eatables. Once they find something to eat, they lose their concentration towards every other thing happening to them. This is the innocence of their nature, and they can be easily taken in or satisfied with the offer of a little eatable.

ž Nostalgic effect (Memories):

The theme of memories and past days is quite prominent in this essay. Lamb appears to miss a number of people including his grandmother, his brother, his love Ann and the past days of his childhood he used to spend with his grandmother.

ž Loneliness:

The theme of loneliness appears at

brother, his love Ann and the past days of his childhood he used to spend with his grandmother.

ž Loneliness:

The theme of loneliness appears at the end of essay in the following lines:
“We are not of Alice, nor of thee, nor are we children at all. The children of Alice called Bartrum father. We are nothing; less than nothing, and dreams. We are only what might have been, and must wait upon the tedious shores of Lethe millions of ages before we have existence and a name”

“...and immediately awaking, I found myself quietly seated in my bachelor arm-chair, where I had fallen asleep”

After reading the above lines, the reader turns from happy children story to gloom as it is discovered that all that happened earlier was just a dream, and in reality Lamb is alone and does not have any wife or children.