

# INVESTIGATING THE ROLE OF THE HEROINE IN SAMUEL BECKETT'S HAPPY DAYS

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***Abstract\_** This paper tries to shed light on the role of Winnie, the heroine of Happy Days by Samuel Becket. It tries to show how Winnie's role is so influential in the play and illustrates how this character helps in sending the very absurd message of the play. In addition to this, it also clarifies how the absurd techniques of the play can be investigated by Winnie. Hence, this paper discusses Winnie's thematic and technical roles.*

*The Thematic Role of Winnie*

*Happy Days is an absurd play by Beckett. This play is analogous to other works of Beckett. All his works lack meaning, because he is not interested in meaning, but in shape only. He says: I take no sides. I am interested in the shape of ideas. There is a wonderful sentence in Augustine: "Do not despair; one of the thieves was saved. Do not presume; one of the thieves was damned. ' That sentence has a wonderful shape. It is the shape that matters. (qtd in Schneider173-88).*

*This explains why all his works lack meaning and action. All Beckett's oeuvre does not have action. They are plays in which nothing happens forever, and in which there is no meaning. But rather they express emptiness, loneliness, man's pitiful condition, and death's futility.*

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