**Dr. S. CHOUCHANE**

**3rd Year Literature Module**

**Academic Year: 2024/2025**

**Lesson 2**

**The Snow Man by Wallace Stevens**

One must have a mind of winter  
To regard the frost and the boughs  
Of the pine-trees crusted with snow;

And have been cold a long time  
To behold the junipers shagged with ice,  
The spruces rough in the distant glitter

Of the January sun; and not to think  
Of any misery in the sound of the wind,  
In the sound of a few leaves,

Which is the sound of the land  
Full of the same wind  
That is blowing in the same bare place

For the listener, who listens in the snow,  
And, nothing himself, beholds  
Nothing that is not there and the nothing that is.

**Form:** *The Snow Man* is written in free verse, without a consistent rhyme scheme or meter.

**Language and Style:** The language in *The Snow Man* is stark and direct. Stevens avoids flowery language or emotional expressions, opting for a precise, almost objective tone. The use of negation throughout the poem ("nothing," "no," "not") emphasizes the void or emptiness that the snowman observes.

**Images:** The central image of the poem is the snowman itself, a figure made from snow, which is described in cold, visual terms, such as "the nothing that is not there," suggesting a complete absence of human warmth, emotion, and preconception.

**Isolation:**

Isolation is another key theme in *The Snow Man*. The snowman, as an observer, stands apart from the world it observes. The snowman’s isolation is both literal, as it stands alone in the cold, and metaphorical, as it represents the isolation of the modern man.