

Robert Burns

Robert Burns was a Scottish poet and lyricist. He is regarded as the national poet of Scotland and his poems and songs, written in both Scots and standard English, are known worldwide.

Early Life

Robert Burns, also known as Robbie or Rabbie, was born on 25th January 1759 in the village of Alloway in Ayrshire, Scotland. He was born in a house built by his father; as he grew older, he referred to his home as the 'auld cley biggin'.



Burns had a very humble start to life. He was the eldest of seven children and his father, William Burnes, was a tenant farmer so the family often struggled for money.

His Poems and Work

Burns began his working life as a farmer but his father knew education was important so he taught his children how to read and write. Even when working in the fields, Burns could find inspiration to write poetry. In fact, some of Burns' most notable poems were based on the things he saw whilst he was out ploughing the fields. For example, he wrote 'To a Mouse' after he turned over a field mouse's nest with his plough.

Much of Burns' inspiration for his poems and ballads came from falling in love. He wrote his first love song at the age of 15 but it wasn't until the age of 27 that his poems were published. One of his most famous love poems is 'A Red, Red Rose'.

Burns' Legacy

Burns died on the 21st July 1796 at the young age of 37. His funeral took place on 25th July. This was also the day that his 12th child was born.

Long after Robert Burns' death, both he and his poems are still remembered and celebrated today. Amazingly, after Queen Victoria and Christopher Columbus, there are more statues of Robert Burns around the world than any other non-religious person. To date, there are over 60 statues of him, at least 20 of which are in Scotland.

One of Burns' most famous poems is Auld Lang Syne. Today, it is sung all over the world on 31st December (Hogmanay).

Did You Know?

The farm where Burns was born is now the Robert Burns' Birthplace Museum and it attracts hordes of visitors every year. The museum is home to hundreds of artefacts belonging to Burns such as the quills he used to write his famous pieces of work.

Burns Night

The first Burns suppers were arranged by his friends a few years after his death. They wanted to celebrate his life and his poems. Gradually, the celebrations spread further and today Burns Night is celebrated all around the world.

A traditional Burns supper includes a serving of haggis, neeps (turnip) and tatties (potatoes).

Haggis is a savoury pudding traditionally made from the lining of a sheep's stomach. The stomach is stuffed with minced sheep's liver, heart, lungs, oatmeal, onion and suet. A dram of Scotch whisky is sometimes poured over the haggis before it is served.



LI – I am learning how to answer Bloom Questions.

Bloom Questions

Read the passage about ‘Robert Burns’ carefully and answer **one** question from **each** of the **Bloom Boxes**.

Please write your answers in full sentences and write in as much detail as you can.

Please don't forget to upload your hard work!

Remembering

When was Robert Burns born?

Name one of Robert Burns' poems.

How many statues are there of Robert Burns in total?

Understanding

Explain why Robert wrote a poem about a mouse.

Explain why Robert's father wanted him to have an education.

Draw an important event in Robert Burns' life.

Applying

If you could ask Robert a question, what would it be?

What would you still like to know about Robert Burns?

Draw a timeline of the important events in Burns' life.

Evaluating

Do you think Robert Burns could be described as having a growth or fixed mindset? Explain your answer.

Does the life of Robert Burns remind you of another significant individual? Give a reason for your answer.

What do you think is the most significant part of Burns' legacy? Explain your reasoning.

Analysing

What might Robert's life have been like if his father hadn't supported his education?

Why do you think that Robert Burns is a significant individual in Scotland?

Why do you think haggis, neeps and tatties are served on Burns Night?