

Robert Burns

Robert Burns was a Scottish poet and lyricist, or song writer. He is known around the world as Scotland's national poet. Burns Night is celebrated every year on 25th January, Robert Burns' birthday.

Early Life

Robert Burns, also known as Robbie or Rabbie, was born on 25th January 1759 in the village of Alloway in Ayrshire, Scotland. Burns had a very humble start to life. He was the eldest of seven children and his father, William Burness, was a tenant farmer so the family often struggled for money.



Did You Know...?

The house Burns was born in is now the Robert Burns Birthplace Museum and it is visited by over 100,000 people every year. In the museum, there are hundreds of objects that belonged to Burns such as the quills he used to write.



His Poems and Songs

From a young age, Burns worked as a farmer but his father knew education was important so he taught his children how to read and write. Some of Burns' 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.

Burns' inspiration for his poems and ballads also 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.

His Legacy

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

Did You Know...?

After Queen Victoria and Christopher Columbus, there are more statues of Robert Burns around the world than any other non-religious person; there are over 60!

One of Burns' most famous poems is Auld Lang Syne. It is sung all over the world on Hogmanay, the 31st of December. It is even in the Guinness Book of World Records because it is one of the three most popular songs in the English language.

Burns Night

The first Burns suppers were organised by his friends a few years after his death. They wanted to celebrate his life and poems. 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. Scotch whisky is sometimes poured over the haggis before it is served.



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 language and standard English, are known worldwide. Burns Night is celebrated in honour of him every year on 25th January, Robert Burns' birthday.



Robert Burns, also known as Robbie or Rabbie, was born on 25th January 1759 in the village of Alloway in Ayrshire, Scotland. Burns had a very humble start to life. He was the eldest of seven children and his father, William Burness, was a tenant farmer so the family often struggled for money.

Did You Know...?

Burns was born in a house built by his father; he referred to his home as the 'auld cley biggin'. It is now the Robert Burns Birthplace Museum and it attracts over 100,000 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 began his working life as a farmer but his father knew education was important so he taught his children how to read and write. 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.

Burns' inspiration for most of 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.'

In 1788, the year Robert married Jean Armour, he travelled around Scotland collecting local songs and writing poems about his travels. Although Burns is regarded as a national treasure, his political views often made people question his loyalty to the Scottish crown.

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

Burns' Legacy

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 600; 15 of which are in Scotland.

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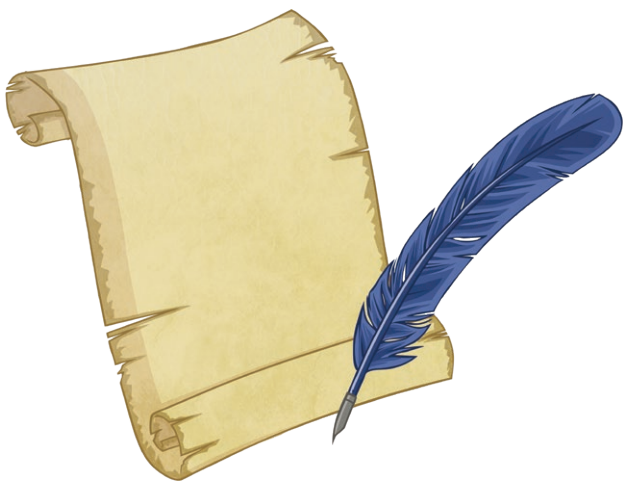
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Robert Burns, also known as Robbie or Rabbie, was born on 25th January 1759 in the village of Alloway in Ayrshire, Scotland. He was born in a modest farmhouse, built by his father William Burness, which he referred to as the 'auld cley biggin'. Burns had a very humble start to life.

He was the eldest of seven children and his father was a tenant farmer so the family often lived in poverty and hardship.

Burns began his working life as a farmer. However, his father recognised the value of education so taught all of his children how to read and write. Some of Burns' most notable poems were based on the things he observed 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. Another of his poems called 'To a Louse' was written after he observed head lice on a lady's bonnet in church.



The inspiration for most of his poems and ballads came from falling in love. Burns penned his first love song at the tender 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.'

In 1788, around the time Burns married Jean Armour, he travelled around Scotland collecting local songs and writing poems about his travels. Although Burns is regarded as a national treasure, his controversial political views often made people question his loyalty to the Scottish crown.

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Burns' Legacy

The 'auld cley biggin' is now home to the Robert Burns Birthplace Museum. The museum attracts over 100,000 visitors every year and exhibits hundreds of artefacts belonging to Burns, including the quills he used to write some of his famous pieces of work.

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The supper begins with 'The Selkirk Grace' followed by an invited speaker who recites Burns' famous poem 'Address to a Haggis'. Haggis, neeps (turnips) and tatties (potatoes) are then served. The evening usually ends with guests singing and dancing to 'Auld Lang Syne'.

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