

# Robert Burns



## Who Was Robert Burns?

Robert Burns was a Scottish poet. He lived about 250 years ago and he wrote poems and songs in Ayrshire, Scotland. Most of his poems are written in Scots and standard English. Today, one of his poems, 'Auld Lang Syne', is sung all over the world on Hogmanay.

## Robert Burns' Life

Robert Burns was born in Alloway, Scotland in 1759. His parents were called William and Agnes. He was the eldest of seven children. The family were poor but William taught his children to read and write.

William was a farmer and Robert helped him on the farm. Robert wrote poems about the different things he saw. He even wrote poems about a mouse and a head louse! He also wrote poems about love.

Around 1788, Robert married Jean Armour and he had 12 children. On 21<sup>st</sup> July 1796, Robert died at the age of 37. His son, Maxwell, was born on the day of his funeral.



## Burns Night

On 25<sup>th</sup> January, people all around the world celebrate Robert Burns, by eating a Burns supper. This date is special because it was Robert's birthday.

## What Happens at a Burns Night Supper?

At the start of the supper, guests say 'The Selkirk Grace'. This is then followed by Robert's famous poem, 'Address to a Haggis'. During the evening, Burns' poems are read, people eat haggis, neeps (turnips) and tatties (potatoes) and dance to Scottish music.

