

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. His poems were written in both Scots and standard English. His work is very well-known and one of his poems, 'Auld Lang Syne', is sung all over the world on Hogmanay

Robert Burns' Life

Robert Burns was born in Alloway, Ayrshire in 1759. His parents were called William and Agnes and he was the eldest of seven children. Although the family were poor, William taught all of his children how to read and write. William was a tenant farmer and Robert helped him on the farm from a young age.



This inspired Robert to write poems about the different things he saw. During this time, he wrote his famous poems about a mouse and a head louse! Around 1788, Robert married Jean Armour and he had 12 children. On 21st July 1796, Robert died at the age of 37. Four days later, on the day of Robert's funeral, his child Maxwell was born.

Burns Night

On 25th January, people all around the world celebrate Burns Night and host Burns suppers. This date is special because it was Robert's birthday. The first Burns supper was organised by nine of Robert's friends after he died. The tradition has continued for over 250 years! At the beginning of the supper, guests say 'The Selkirk Grace'. This is then followed by Robert's famous poem, 'Address to a Haggis'. During the evening, people recite Burns' poems, eat haggis, neeps (turnips) and tatties (potatoes) and dance to Scottish music. The night ends with people singing 'Auld Lang Syne'.

