

# Robert Burns



## Who Was Robert Burns?

Robert Burns was a Scottish poet. A poet is a person who writes poems. He wrote poems a long time ago in Scotland. Today, his poems are famous all around the world.

## Robert Burns' Life

- Robert Burns was born in Alloway, Scotland in 1759.
- Robert's father was a farmer and he helped him on the farm. Robert wrote poems about the different things he saw.
- While working on the farm, he wrote a poem about a mouse and a head louse!
- Burns wrote 'Auld Lang Syne', the song people sing on Hogmanay.
- Robert died on 21<sup>st</sup> July 1796 - he was only 37.



## Burns Night

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

## What Happens at a Burns Night Party?

Robert Burns' poems are read.

People eat haggis, neeps (turnips) and tatties (potatoes).

People dance to Scottish music.

The evening ends when people sing 'Auld Lang Syne'.



# Questions

1. Where was Robert Burns born? Tick one.

- Scotland
- Spain
- England

2. When is Burns Night? Tick one.

- 25<sup>th</sup> July
- 21<sup>st</sup> July
- 25<sup>th</sup> January

3. Complete the sentence.

On Hogmanay, people sing \_\_\_\_\_.

4. How old was Robert Burns when he died? Tick one.

- 30 years old
- 37 years old
- 57 years old

5. Tick two things you might see at a Burns supper?

- haggis, neeps and tatties
- fish and chips
- Scottish dancing

# Answers

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- Spain
- England

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- 21<sup>st</sup> July
- 25<sup>th</sup> January

3. Complete the sentence.

On Hogmanay, people sing **Auld Lang Syne**.

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- haggis, neeps and tatties
- fish and chips
- Scottish dancing

# 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.



# Questions

1. Complete the sentence:

Robert Burns was a \_\_\_\_\_.

2. What Robert Burns song is sung at Hogmanay? Tick one

Address to a Haggis

To a Mouse

Auld Lang Syne

3. Match the sentences.

Robert Burns was born

William and Agnes.

In 1788, Robert

in Alloway, Scotland.

Robert's parents were called

married Jean Armour.

4. What do you think people wear to a Burns Supper? Tick one.

fancy dress

tartan kilts

Christmas jumpers

5. Name two things Robert wrote about.

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# Answers

1. Complete the sentence:

**Robert Burns was a Scottish poet.**

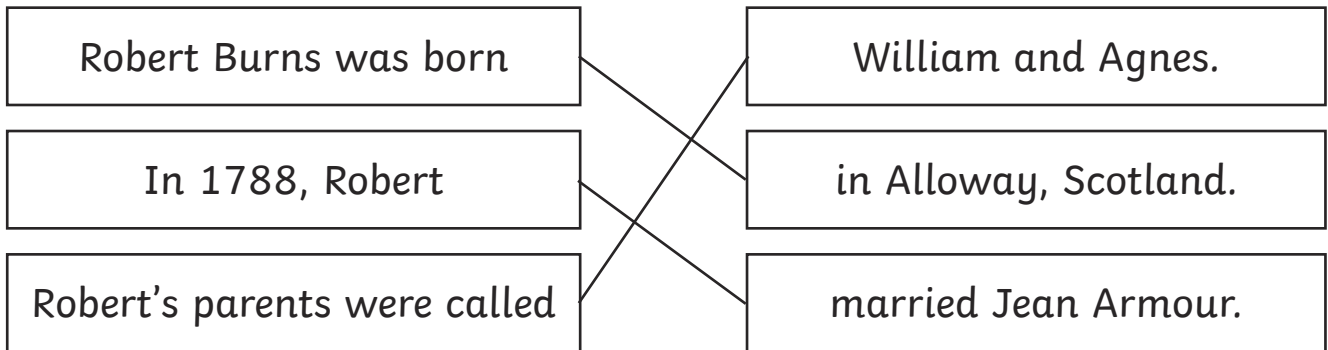
2. What Robert Burns song is sung at Hogmanay? Tick one

Address to a Haggis

To a Mouse

Auld Lang Syne

3. Match the sentences.



4. What do you think people wear to a Burns Supper? Tick one.

fancy dress

tartan kilts

Christmas jumpers

5. Name two things Robert wrote about.

**Answers may include: a head louse, a haggis, a mouse, love.**

# 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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 25<sup>th</sup> 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'.



# Questions

1. What is Robert Burns famous for?

- writing poetry and music
- painting portraits
- inventing machines

2. Name three things Robert Burns wrote about.

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3. What happened on the day of Robert's funeral?

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4. Put the Burns supper events in order.

- Address to a Haggis
- The Selkirk Grace
- eating haggis, neeps and tatties
- Auld Lang Syne

5. Find and copy the word that means 'to say aloud'.

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6. Why do you think Robert's friends organised a meal after he died?

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# Answers

1. What is Robert Burns famous for?

- writing poetry and music
- painting portraits
- inventing machines

2. Name three things Robert Burns wrote about.

**Robert Burns wrote about a haggis, a mouse and a head louse.**

3. What happened on the day of Robert's funeral?

**On the day of Robert's funeral, his son Maxwell was born.**

4. Put the Burns supper events in order.

- 2 Address to a Haggis
- 1 The Selkirk Grace
- 3 eating haggis, neeps and tatties
- 4 Auld Lang Syne

5. Find and copy the word that means 'to say aloud'.

**recite**

6. Why do you think Robert's friends organised a meal after he died?

**Answers will vary: I think Robert's friends organised a meal after he died so they could celebrate his poetry and talk about his life.**