

Robert Burns

'A Red, Red Rose'

Teacher's Notes

If using this poem for recitation, these CfE Experiences and Outcomes may be targeted:

- I am exploring how pace, gesture, expression, emphasis and choice of words are used to engage others, and I can use what I learn. **ENG 1-03a**
- I can recognise how the features of spoken language can help in communication, and I can use what I learn. I can recognise different features of my own and others' spoken language. **ENG 2-03a**
- I have experienced the energy and excitement of presenting/performing for audiences and being part of an audience for other people's presentations/performances.
EXA 1-01a, EXA 2-01a

Worksheet CfE target:

- To show my understanding across different areas of learning, I can identify and consider the purpose and main ideas of a text. **LIT 1-16a**
- To show my understanding across different areas of learning, I can identify and consider the purpose and main ideas of a text and use supporting detail. **LIT 2-16a**

This pack contains the following:

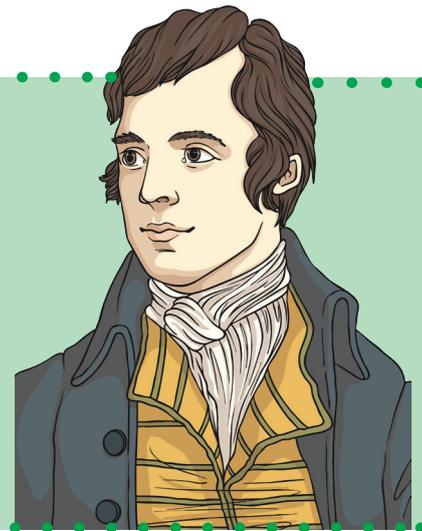
- About the poet and poem information sheet
- A4 display copy of the poem
- A Red, Red Rose worksheet – two differentiated versions

About the Poet and the Poem

Robert Burns was born on 25th January 1759 in Alloway near Ayr. He worked as a farm labourer but he had learnt to read and write from an early age. Robert Burns composed poems and songs as he worked.

In 1786 Burns published some of his poems in a book entitled 'Poems, Chiefly in the Scottish Dialect'. The book was a great success and Burns moved to Edinburgh where his poems and songs (and his company) were in great demand. He published another edition of his poems and went on to tour Scotland, collecting ideas for poetry and songs on the way.

Robert Burns still needed to earn money, so he took on the tenancy of a farm in Dumfriesshire. He also accepted a post as an Excise Officer which he relied on for income when his farming venture failed. His poor health brought on by extremely hard work and living conditions of the time led to his death in Dumfries on 21st July 1796, at the age of thirty-seven.



A songwriter was once known as a Bard. Robert Burns is well known as Scotland's national poet or Bard. On 25th January, Burns Night, Scots people all over the world celebrate the life of Robert Burns. They may go to a Burns Supper where poems and songs that Robert Burns wrote are recited or sung. A meal of Cock-a-leekie soup followed by haggis, neeps and tatties is eaten.

A Red, Red Rose is one of Robert Burns' most well-known pieces of writing. It is seen as a love song that describes the writer's love for his partner: beautiful, eternal and powerful.

The Poem

A Red, Red Rose

O my Luve's like a red, red rose,
That's newly sprung in June;
O my Luve's like the melodie
That's sweetly play'd in tune.

As fair art thou, my bonnie lass,
So deep in luve am I;
And I will luve thee still, my Dear,
Till a' the seas gang dry.

Till a' the seas gang dry, my Dear,
And the rocks melt wi' the sun:
I will luve thee still, my dear,
While the sands o' life shall run.

And fare thee weel, my only Luve!
And fare thee weel, a while!
And I will come again, my Luve,
Tho' it were ten thousand mile!

Robert Burns



Worksheet A

Read the poem below. Can you explain what the underlined Scottish words or phrases mean? Use the space around the poem to write your answers.

A Red, Red Rose
By Robert Burns

This means love.

O my Luv'e's like a red, red rose,
That's newly sprung in June;
O my Luv'e's like the melodie
That's sweetly play'd in tune.

As fair art thou, my bonnie lass,
So deep in luv'e am I;
And I will luv'e thee still, my Dear,
Till a' the seas gang dry.

Till a' the seas gang dry, my Dear,
And the rocks melt wi' the sun:
I will luv'e thee still, my dear,
While the sands o' life shall run.

And fare thee weel, my only Luv'e!
And fare thee weel, a while!
And I will come again, my Luv'e,
Tho' it were ten thousand mile!

Now, in your own words, explain what this poem is about.

Worksheet B

Read the poem below. Underline or highlight any Scottish words or phrases and, in the space around the poem, explain what they mean.

A Red, Red Rose
By Robert Burns

This means love.

O my Luve's like a red, red rose,
That's newly sprung in June;
O my Luve's like the melodie
That's sweetly play'd in tune.

As fair art thou, my bonnie lass,
So deep in luve am I;
And I will luve thee still, my Dear,
Till a' the seas gang dry.

Till a' the seas gang dry, my Dear,
And the rocks melt wi' the sun:
I will luve thee still, my dear,
While the sands o' life shall run.

And fare thee weel, my only Luve!
And fare thee weel, a while!
And I will come again, my Luve,
Tho' it were ten thousand mile!

Now, in your own words, explain what this poem is about.
