

ROBERT FROST



Robert Lee Frost (March 26, 1874 – 29 January, 1963) was born in San Francisco to journalist William Prescott Frost Jr. and Isabelle Moodie. After the death of his father, the family moved across the country to Lawrence, Massachusetts, under the patronage of Robert's grandfather William Frost Sr. Frost graduated from Lawrence High School in 1892. He became interested in reading and writing poetry during his high school years in Lawrence. Although known for his later association with rural life, Frost grew up in the city, and he published his first poem in his high school's magazine.

Frost's path to literary success was anything but easy. He attended both Dartmouth College and Harvard University but never earned a formal degree. He spent years working as a teacher, a cobbler, and a farmer while writing poetry in the early morning hours. For a long time, American publishers showed little interest in his work. Frustrated with limited publication opportunities in the US, Frost sold his farm and used the proceeds to take his family to England in 1912. There, he found his voice and published his first two poetry collections, gaining critical acclaim. Frost also established a friendship with the poet Ezra Pound, who helped to promote and publish his work.

Returning to the US in 1915, he settled in New Hampshire and continued to write and teach. His poems resonated with readers for their honest portrayal of nature, human emotions, and everyday struggles.

Frost became a beloved American poet, winning four Pulitzer Prizes for Poetry (a record!) and receiving numerous other honors. In 1924, he won the first of four Pulitzer Prizes for the book *New Hampshire: A Poem with Notes and Grace Notes*. He won additional Pulitzers for *Collected Poems* in 1931, *A Further Range* in 1937, and *A Witness Tree* in 1943. His famous poems like "The Road Not Taken," "Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening," and "Nothing Gold Can Stay" continue to resonate with readers of all ages. He is remembered for his ability to capture the beauty and complexity of life in simple, yet profound, words.

President John F. Kennedy, at whose inauguration Frost delivered a poem, said of the poet, "He has bequeathed his nation a body of imperishable verse from which Americans will forever gain joy and understanding." And famously, "He saw poetry as the means of saving power from itself. When power leads man towards arrogance, poetry reminds him of his limitations. When power narrows the areas of man's concern, poetry reminds him of the richness and diversity of his existence. When power corrupts, poetry cleanses."