

ROBERT LEE FROST

Task 1. Read about Robert Frost and answer the questions.

Robert Lee Frost (March 26, 1874 — January 29, 1963) was an American poet. He is highly regarded for his realistic depictions of rural life and his command of American colloquial speech. His work frequently employed settings from rural life in New England in the early twentieth century, using them to examine complex social and philosophical themes. A popular and oftenquoted poet, Frost was honoured frequently during his lifetime, receiving four Pulitzer Prizes for Poetry.

Robert Frost was born in San Francisco, California, to journalist William Prescott Frost, Jr., and Isabelle Moodie. Frost's father was a teacher and later an editor of the San Francisco Evening Bulletin. After his death on May 5, 1885, the family moved across the country to Lawrence, Massachusetts, under the patronage of Robert's grandfather William Frost, who was an overseer at a New England mill. Frost graduated from Lawrence High School in 1892.

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 returned home to teach and to work at various jobs — including helping his mother teach her class of unruly boys, delivering newspapers, and working in a factory. He did not enjoy these jobs, feeling his true calling was poetry.

In 1894 he sold his first poem, "My Butterfly. An Elegy" (published in the November 8, 1894, edition of the New York Independent) for \$15 — equivalent in spending power to at least \$300 today. Proud of his accomplishment, he married Elinor Miriam White, on December 19, 1895. Frost attended Harvard University from 1897–1899, but he left voluntarily due to illness. Shortly before dying, Robert's grandfather purchased a farm for Robert and Elinor in Derry, New Hampshire; and Robert worked the farm for nine years, while writing early in the mornings and producing many of the poems that would later become famous. His farming proved unsuccessful and he returned to the field of education as an English teacher. In 1912 Frost sailed with his family to Great Britain. In England he made some important acquaintances, including Edward Thomas and Ezra Pound. Pound was the first American to write a favourable review of Frost's work. Frost met or befriended many contemporary poets in England, especially after his first two poetry volumes were published in London in 1913. As World War I began, Frost returned to America in 1915 where he launched a career of writing, teaching and lecturing. For forty

two years — from 1921 to 1963 — Frost spent almost every summer and fall teaching English. Although he never graduated from college, Frost received over 40 honorary degrees, including ones from Princeton, Oxford and Cambridge universities.

Frost was 86 when he spoke and performed a reading of his poetry at the inauguration of President John F. Kennedy on January 20, 1961. He died in Boston two years later, on January, 29 in Boston.

1. When and where was he born?
2. What is he famous for?
3. What were his poems about?
4. Did he grow up in a city or on a farm?
5. Was he a successful farmer?
6. Did he graduate from the college?
7. How many honorary degrees did he receive?
8. What did he teach?
9. Did he have a big family?
10. What did he do at the inauguration of President John F. Kennedy?
11. How old was he then?
12. How many years did he live?