

UNIT 5 Progress & Conflict
Early Twentieth Century 1910–1929



Author Focus:
ROBERT FROST

with Jim Soto

SPEAK YOUR MIND

What items, events, and experiences do you associate with the region
in which you live?

How has your perception of these things changed as you have grown
older?

Take a minute to consider, answer and explain the question in your
notebook.

Robert Frost used simple, everyday language and imagery to explore complex themes and emotions in his lyric poetry. His works often revolve around the natural world and rural life, drawing on his own experiences growing up and living in New England. He is also known for his use of metaphor, which he uses to delve deeper into the human experience and bring new perspectives to familiar themes. Frost's poetry often deals with universal themes and emotions that are relatable to a wide audience.





Frost explored the complexities of life, such as the struggle between the longing for simplicity and the complexity of reality, the fear of isolation and the longing for connection and the passage of time and its impact on people. His poetry continues strike a chord with readers of all ages.

BIRCHES

Published in 1916, "Birches" reflects on the speaker's childhood memories of playing in a birch tree grove, and the way those memories are intertwined with his perceptions of nature and aging. The speaker describes his longing to return to the innocence and playfulness of his youth, and his wish to escape the hardships of adulthood.



MENDING WALL

This poem, published in 1914, is a reflection on the nature of boundaries, both physical and metaphorical, and how they shape our relationships. The speaker describes the annual ritual of rebuilding a stone wall that separates his property from his neighbor's, and muses on the reasons why the wall is necessary. Are the reasons valid? The poem is known for its use of imagery, metaphor, and its exploration of themes of isolation, community and human nature.



THE DEATH OF THE HIRED MAN

"The Death of the Hired Man" is a poem by Robert Frost, published in 1914 as part of his collection "North of Boston." The poem tells the story of a farmer and his wife, who are visited by a former hired hand, Silas, on his deathbed. The poem explores the theme of mortality and the human need for connection, as the farmer and his wife struggle with their feelings of responsibility towards Silas and their own mortality. The poem is known for its use of imagery, metaphor, and its exploration of themes of death, responsibility, and the human condition.



The poem is also notable for its use of dialogue, which helps to create a sense of realism and intimacy in the story. It shows the complexity of human emotions and relationships and it's a powerful meditation on the nature of life, death and the passage of time.



LITERARY ELEMENTS

Meter

Is a regular rhythmic pattern in poetry, which is determined by the number of beats, or stresses, in each line.

Symbol

Is anything that stands for or represents both itself and something else.

Lyric Poems

Is a short, highly musical verse that conveys powerful feelings.

ASSESSMENT

After reading pages 400-413 in your book, complete the activities:

1. REFER TO TEXT &
2. REASON WITH TEXT
3. & ANALYZE LITERATURE
 - **Meter and Symbol** - What general pattern of stressed & unstressed syllables did you find? How many stressed beats do most lines have? Focus on the use of meter in "Mending Wall." Copy the poem in your notebook. Mark the stressed & unstressed syllables.
 - Discuss the symbols you identified in each poem. What do the birch trees represent in "Birches"? What other nature symbols does Frost use in this poem? How does the use of symbols contribute to the meaning of the poem?



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