

Robert Frost (1874-1963)

1874: Born in California, named Robert Lee Frost (his father sympathized with the South in the Civil War)

1884: Frost is ten when father dies of tuberculosis, mother takes him back home to New England

1891: Graduates as valedictorian of his high school

1892: Having dropped out of Dartmouth College, teaches at his mother's school

1893: Publishes a poem in a national magazine (*The Independent*); grandfather suggests that he take a year to see if he can really make a living at poetry, but Frost says "Give me twenty."

1894: Marries his high school valedictorian, Elinor Miriam White

1896-1898: Studies at Harvard but decides not to finish

1899-1909: Ages 25-35, works a New Hampshire farm provided by his grandfather and teaches at Pinkerton Academy

1912: Takes his family to England, lives and farms there

1913: First book of poems, *A Boy's Will*, published in England (age 38)

1914: *North of Boston* published in England

1915: Returns to America and finds that he is famous there; buys a farm in New Hampshire

1916: Elected to National Institute of Arts and Letters, made Phi Beta Kappa poet at Harvard

1916-1938: Works as a professor at various colleges and universities, including Amherst College

1938: Moves to Boston

1941: Moves to Cambridge, Massachusetts; owns five farms in Vermont

1924, 1931, 1937, 1943: Wins Pulitzer Prize four times

1958-1959: Consultant in Poetry to the Library of Congress (position now called United States Poet Laureate)

1961: Reads a poem for John F. Kennedy's inauguration

1963: Dies in Boston at 88; his epitaph, "I had a lover's quarrel with the world," comes from one of his poems

Works Consulted

Untermeyer, Louis. "An Introduction: Robert Frost: The Man and the Poet." *Robert Frost's*

Poems. New York, St. Martin's Paperbacks: 2002. 1-14.