

## ROBERT FROST

This study material has been prepared for B.A. English Literature Paper-III Modern Literature (A) (Poetry) students of Vth semester for the session 2020-21 of Lucknow University

- A major poet of America, a poet who belongs to the soil.
- Grave called him a great poet by world standards, and Auden said 'Only representative of smaller farmers'.
- He turns back on Ancient European traditions, imitates his successors- which matches the American Climate and language.
- A poet of experience of humble people, Humanity.
- He appeals for country background, and Natural objects.
- He is also considered as America's Grand 'Old man of poetry'.
- Born on March 26, 1874 at San Francisco, California.
- He worked in Mills, did School teaching and newspaper reporting.
- In leisure time he wrote poetry.

### Work:

- **'My Butterfly' 1894**, First poem was published in Independent.
  - **'A Boy's will'**, 1913 this book was published in London.
  - **'North of Boston'** 1914.
  - **'Mountain Interval'** 1916.
  - **'New Hampshire'** 1923.
  - **'West Running Brook'** 1928.
  - **'A Further Range'** 1936.
  - **'A Winter's Tree'** 1942
  - **'Steeple Bush'**, 1947.
  - **'Clearing'**, 1962.
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- He also travelled to England in 1912 and returned to America in 1914.
  - Some of his work published in London.
  - Robert Frost taught in various colleges and was invited to read his poems throughout U.S.A.

- In his life time unlimited name and fame was pouring in and he had become famous as '**National Bard**', '**The Voice of America**'.
- Frost won '04 Pulitzer Prizes'.
- 44 Universities and colleges had conferred honorary degrees to him.
- He had also read the poem '**The Gift Outright**' on the occasion of John F. Kennedy's inaugural of Presidency in 1961.

### Style:

- In his style he seems to be pastoral.
- Frost a modern poet but he chose to 'Old Fashioned way to be new'.
- He uses simple language and speech in his poetry and relying on traditional forms of lyric and narrative.
- His subject matters are drawn from common everyday experiences & occupations of rural people of America.
- He sets his imagery against the background of the region north of Boston.
- Being pastoral and regionalist much similarities can be drawn between him and William Wordsworth, but he did not see any 'holy plan' in Nature, as William Wordsworth did.
- As far as his love of nature is concerned he portrays its sensuous beauty as well s its harsher realities and unpleasant aspects.
- I have already told you students that his central subject of poetry remains humanity.
- Twin happiness of his life was to write poetry and to be with Elinor.
- Elinor the women he married in 1895, a lady of flashy temperament given to the pursuit of new ideas and newer people, contrary to Robert Frost's firmness, dedication, persistence approaches.

### Work Consulted and Cited:

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- Iyenger, KRS, '**Indian Writing in English**', 2017, Sterling Publishers Pvt. Ltd. New Delhi