



POETRY

Your Laughter

BY PABLO NERUDA

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Introduction to Poetry

“Poetry is a form of literature that uses language, rhythm, and imagery to express emotions, ideas, and experiences in a condensed and artistic way.”

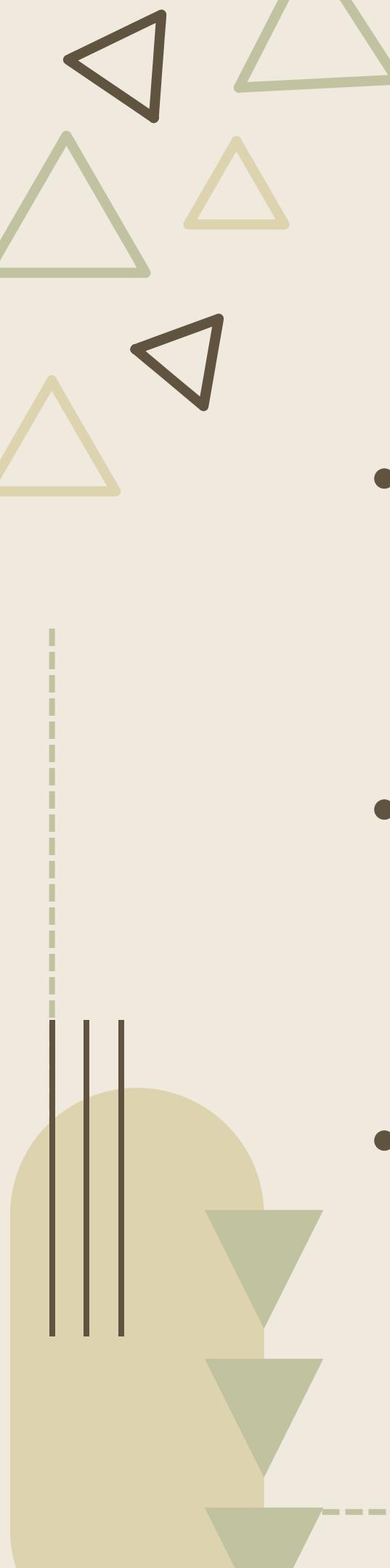
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Introduction to the Nobel Prize in Literature and Its Standards

The Nobel Prize in Literature was founded by **Alfred Nobel**, the inventor of dynamite and a philanthropist. His will, written in 1895, established the Nobel Prizes to honor individuals who have made significant contributions to humanity in various fields, including literature.

Nobel believed that great writers have the power to influence minds and inspire generations, making literature a worthy category for the prize



Introduction to the Nobel Prize in Literature and Its Standards

- The prize is given to an author, poet, playwright, or thinker who, in the words of Nobel's will, has produced "the most outstanding work in an ideal direction."
 - It is considered the world's most prestigious literary award and can honor an entire body of work or a single influential creation.
 - The award includes:
 - A gold medal
 - A diploma
 - A cash prize
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Introduction to the Nobel Prize in Literature and Its Standards

The Swedish Academy

The Swedish Academy is a prestigious institution responsible for awarding the Nobel Prize in Literature. Founded in 1786. This respected institution selects the **laureates** every year.

The Academy, which consists of 18 members, including notable Swedish writers, scholars, and other cultural luminaries, evaluates nominees and deliberates extensively.

Their purpose is to recognise excellent literary works that have contributed to the global literary landscape. The Nobel Prize in Literature is awarded to authors who have made major contributions to literature, as determined by a rigorous selection process.

Introduction to the Nobel Prize in Literature and Its Standards

Standards for Awarding the Nobel Prize in Literature

The Nobel Committee looks for works that:

Literary Excellence – Mastery of language, style, and form

Demonstrate originality and creativity – offering fresh perspectives , innovation in genre, unique artistic voices.

Show universality – Themes with deep human, cultural, or global significance.

Enduring value: Works that are expected to remain influential across generations and long lasting impact on humanity.

Contribution to humanity: Promoting empathy, justice, freedom of thought, or deeper understanding of the human condition

Introduction to the Nobel Prize in Literature and Its Standards

Winning the Nobel Prize means that a writer's work has not only artistic beauty but also a lasting impact on humanity.

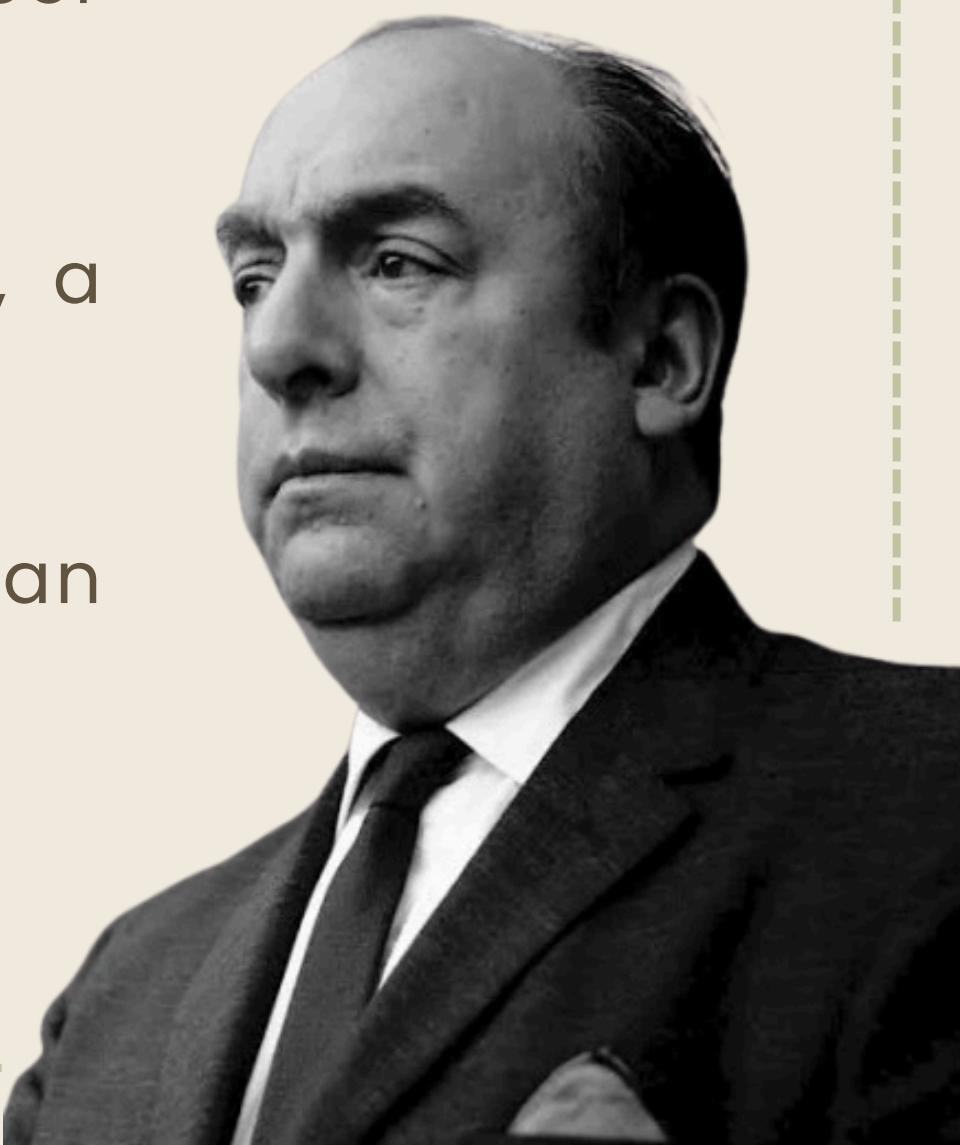
The Nobel Prize in Literature is awarded by the Swedish Academy to a writer whose works achieve the highest literary standards and embody universal human values.

Author's Biography

Birth and Early Life

Pablo Neruda was born on July 12, 1904, in a small town called Parral, Chile. His real name was Ricardo Eliécer Neftalí Reyes Basoalto.

- His father was a railway worker, and his mother, a teacher, died shortly after he was born.
- He grew up in the city of Temuco, where he began writing poetry as a teenager.



Author's Biography

Becoming a Poet

At only 19 years old, he became famous with his book "Twenty Love Poems and a Song of Despair" (1924).

- This collection showed his talent for writing about love, passion, and emotions in a deep but simple way.
- People around the world admired his ability to put strong feelings into beautiful words.

Author's Biography

Political Involvement

Neruda was not only a poet but also a diplomat and politician.

- In the 1930s, he saw the suffering caused by the Spanish Civil War and later by World War II. These events made his poetry more political.
- He joined the Communist Party of Chile and even became a Senator.
- Because of his political beliefs, at one time he had to hide and live in exile outside of Chile.

Author's Biography

Personal Life

Neruda was married three times, but it was his final wife, Matilde Urrutia, whom he loved most deeply.

- Many of his later poems, including "Your Laughter," were inspired by her.
- He often described her love and presence as a source of hope, comfort, and strength.

Author's Biography

Recognition and Nobel Prize

In 1971, Pablo Neruda won the Nobel Prize in Literature.

- The Nobel Committee said he received it for writing poetry that showed the dreams, struggles, and spirit of a whole continent (Latin America).
- He became a voice not just for Chile but for many people around the world.

Author's Biography

Death

Pablo Neruda died on September 23, 1973, in Santiago, Chile.

- To this day, he is remembered as one of the greatest poets of the 20th century, known for writing about love, politics, and humanity.



YOUR LAUGHTER

Your Laughter

Take bread away from me, if you wish,
take air away, but
do not take from me your laughter.

Do not take away the rose,
the lance flower that you pluck,
the water that suddenly
bursts forth in joy,
the sudden wave
of silver born in you.

My struggle is harsh and I come back
with eyes tired
at times from having seen
the unchanging earth,
but when your laughter enters
it rises to the sky seeking me
and it opens for me all
the doors of life.

My love, in the darkest
hour your laughter
opens, and if suddenly
you see my blood staining
the stones of the street,
laugh, because your laughter
will be for my hands
like a fresh sword.

Next to the sea in the autumn,
your laughter must raise
its foamy cascade,
and in the spring, love,
I want your laughter like
the flower I was waiting for,
the blue flower, the rose
of my echoing country.

Laugh at the night,
at the day, at the moon,
laugh at the twisted
streets of the island,
laugh at this clumsy
boy who loves you,
but when I open
my eyes and close them,
when my steps go,
when my steps return,
deny me bread, air,
light, spring,
but never your laughter
for I would die.

Conventions on the School of Thought

Pablo Neruda's poem "Your Laughter" can be linked to different schools of thought in literature because of the way it is written and the ideas it expresses.

Conventions on the School of Thought

1. Romanticism

What Romanticism is: A movement in the late 18th–19th centuries that focused on emotions, love, beauty, and the power of nature and imagination.

How the poem shows it:

- Neruda puts strong feelings and passion at the center of his poem.
- He praises his wife's laughter as if it is more important than air or bread, showing how love and emotions are above everything else.
- This focus on deep personal feelings and admiration for love reflects Romantic ideals.

Conventions on the School of Thought

2. Humanism

What Humanism is: A way of thinking that values human life, emotions, and dignity. It focuses on human experiences rather than religious or divine explanations.

How the poem shows it:

- Instead of talking about gods or myths, Neruda praises something very human: laughter.
- The poem shows that simple human actions can bring healing and hope.
- It highlights the importance of human love and connection, which is central to humanist thought.

Conventions on the School of Thought

3. Modernism

What Modernism is: A 20th-century literary movement that broke traditional forms and often tried to find meaning in a changing, sometimes chaotic world.

How the poem shows it:

- Neruda writes about personal love during a time of political struggles and wars. His poem suggests that love can give meaning in the middle of chaos.
- The language is direct and emotional, not bound by strict forms like older poetry.
- This reflects the Modernist style, where personal truth and inner experience are more important than following old rules.

Summary of the Work

The poem is written for Matilde Urrutia, Pablo Neruda's wife and great love.

In the poem, Neruda says that her laughter is not just an ordinary sound it is something essential for his life.

Summary of the Work

Main Ideas in the Poem

Laughter as Life

- Neruda says her laughter is as important as air, bread, or water, things a person cannot live without.
- Without her laughter, he feels weak, empty, and lost.

Laughter as Light and Hope

- He describes her laughter as sunlight in the middle of darkness.
- It has the power to heal his pain and give him energy when he is sad or struggling.

Summary of the Work

Laughter as Strength in Hardship

- Neruda lived during times of war, political struggles, and even personal illness.
- The poem shows that his wife's love and laughter kept him strong, even when the outside world was full of suffering.

Love Beyond Material Things

- The poem suggests that love and joy (symbolized by laughter) are more powerful than wealth, food, or even survival needs.
- It means that emotional support and love are what truly give life meaning.

Summary of the Work

Overall Meaning

- “Your Laughter” is more than just a love poem. It is a tribute to the healing power of human connection.
- For Neruda, his wife’s laughter is not only personal happiness but also a symbol of hope, life, and survival in a world full of difficulties.
- The poem teaches us that sometimes, the smallest things, like laughter, can carry the greatest importance in keeping someone alive and inspired.

Analysis of the Literary Piece

1. Theme (Main Message)

- The poem's theme is love as a source of life and strength.
- It shows how laughter, joy, and love can keep a person alive even during sadness or hardship.
- Neruda is saying that his wife's love is his greatest treasure — something he cannot live without.

2. Tone (Mood of the Poem)

- The tone is tender, loving, and admiring.
- At the same time, it also feels desperate and serious, because Neruda shows he cannot survive without her laughter.
- The mix of passion and dependence makes the poem very emotional.

Analysis of the Literary Piece

3. Imagery (Word Pictures)

Neruda uses strong images to help us feel his emotions:

- Air and Bread: He compares her laughter to basic needs like food and air, showing how essential it is.
- Light and Darkness: Her laughter is like sunlight in the middle of night, a symbol of hope.
- Medicine and Healing: Her laughter is described as something that heals him from sadness and pain.

Analysis of the Literary Piece

4. Symbolism

- Laughter = Hope and Life.

It represents more than happiness. For Neruda, it is a force of survival.

- Darkness = Sadness and Struggles.

He shows that even when life is difficult, love can bring light.

- Bread/Air = Necessities.

By comparing laughter to food and air, he shows that love is not a luxury, it is a necessity.

Analysis of the Literary Piece

5. Structure and Style

- The poem is written in free verse (no strict rhyme or meter). This is part of Modernism, which often breaks old rules.
- The style is lyrical, full of emotion and music-like language.
- Neruda writes directly and clearly, but the images are deep and powerful.

Analysis of the Literary Piece

6. Sex and Gender Perspective

- The poem shows both the old-fashioned and more modern ideas about men and women.
- It shows the traditional idea of the woman as the supporter and the man as the one who needs support, but at the same time it shows the progressive idea that a woman's laughter is like a powerful force of nature, making her essential, not just someone who's secondary.

Analysis of the Literary Piece

7. Political Perspective

- Neruda wrote this poem during a time of political persecution. As a member of the Chilean Communist Party, he was forced into hiding due to his opposition to President Videla's anti-communist policies.
- The lines "Take bread away from me, if you wish, take air away, but do not take from me your laughter" evoke the deprivation he experienced while in exile.

Analysis of the Literary Piece

8. Interpretation (What It Really Means)

- The poem is not only about romantic love but also about the human need for connection.
- It teaches us that sometimes, the simplest human actions like laughter, joy, and affection, are what truly keep us alive and give meaning to life.
- For Neruda, his wife's love is both personal salvation (helping him survive sadness) and universal truth (reminding us all how important love is).

Analysis of the Literary Piece

9. Why It Is Powerful

- It mixes personal emotion with universal meaning. Anyone can relate to the feeling of being lifted by someone's love or laughter.
- The language is simple but powerful, making it easy to understand yet deeply moving.
- It shows Neruda's genius: turning something ordinary (laughter) into something eternal and poetic.

What Makes the Literary Piece Great?

The Nobel Prize in Literature is given to writers whose works show great artistic value, universal meaning, originality, and contribution to humanity.

What Makes the Literary Piece Great?

1. Universality (Applies to Everyone)

- The poem talks about love, joy, and hope feelings that all people understand, no matter what country or culture.
- Everyone has someone whose presence gives meaning to life, so the poem feels personal but also universal.
- This makes it timeless – it still touches people today, even though it was written many years ago.

What Makes the Literary Piece Great?

2. Originality (Unique Way of Writing)

- Neruda doesn't just say "I love you." He compares laughter to air, bread, and light, which is a creative and original image.
- Instead of traditional love poetry (flowers, beauty, etc.), he focuses on something simple but powerful: laughter.
- This fresh way of expressing love makes the poem stand out.

What Makes the Literary Piece Great?

3. Artistic Excellence (High-Quality Writing)

- The poem is written in free verse, which gives it a natural and emotional flow.
- The imagery is very strong and poetic, turning ordinary things (laughter, air, bread) into deep symbols.
- The balance of tenderness and seriousness shows artistic skill – it feels both soft and powerful.

What Makes the Literary Piece Great?

4. Human Value (Contribution to Life and Humanity)

- The poem reminds us that love and joy are basic needs of human life, not just luxuries.
- It shows how even in times of darkness or hardship, love can keep us alive.
- By celebrating something as small as laughter, Neruda teaches us to value simple joys that bring strength and healing.

What Makes the Literary Piece Great?

5. Lasting Impact (Why It Still Matters)

- Many readers around the world continue to find comfort in this poem.
- It speaks not only about Neruda's personal love but also about the power of human connection in general.
- This lasting emotional impact is one reason why Neruda received the Nobel Prize in 1971.

What Makes the Literary Piece Great?

In simple words:

The poem “Your Laughter” is great because it talks about universal human emotions (love and joy), uses original and creative images, shows artistic skill, and gives an important message about life and hope. These are exactly the qualities the Nobel Prize looks for in great literature.

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YOUR LAUGHTER

Thank You

