

Robert Burns' Poetry: A Red, Red Rose



Robert Burns was a Scottish poet, most noted for his poem/song "Auld Lang Syne." It is sung traditionally at New Year's. That poem and the one below, which was written in 1794, are both written in Scots. Scots is a language variation spoken in Scotland.

A Red, Red Rose

O my luve is like a red, red rose
That's newly sprung in June;
My luve is like the melodie
That's sweetly played in tune.

As fair art thou, my bonny lass,
So deep in luve am I;
And I will luve thee still, my dear,
Till a' the seas gang dry.

Till a' the seas gang dry, my dear,
And the rocks melt wi' the sun;
I will luve thee still, my dear,
While the sands o' life shall run.

And fare thee weel, my only luve!
And fare thee weel, awhile!
And I will come again, my luve
Though it were ten thousand mile.



Part I: Scots Spelling

The poem features the Scots spellings of words. For each of the words below, write the Standard English word in the blank.

1. luve _____
2. gang _____
3. weel _____
4. a' _____
5. melodie _____
6. bonny _____
7. o' _____
8. till _____
9. wi' _____
10. mile _____

Part II. Similes

A simile is a comparison of two things using the words "as" or "like." List the two similes in the poem.

1. _____
2. _____

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Part I: Scots Spelling

The poem features the Scots spellings of words. For each of the words below, write the Standard English word in the blank.

1. luve _____ **love**
2. gang _____ **go**
3. weel _____ **well**
4. a' _____ **all**
5. melodie _____ **melody**
6. bonny _____ **bonnie**
7. o' _____ **of**
8. till _____ **until**
9. wi' _____ **with**
10. mile _____ **miles**

Part II. Similes

Actual student's answers may vary.

Example of correct answers:

A simile is a comparison of two things using the words "as" or "like." List the two similes in the poem.

1. **The author's love and a red rose**
2. **The author's love and a melody**