

Listen to Others:

“Passionate and focused, Robert Harris interacts with the audience and magically brings his subjects to life.”

William C. Oliver, Ph.D.
Williams Institute
President

“His presentations combine the best of academia with the fervor of the pulpit. And he is the leading Walt Whitman collector of our times.”

Russell Martin
DeGolyer Library at Southern Methodist University
Director

“Robert Harris educates, motivates, and entertains with boundless enthusiasm.”

William White
Walt Whitman Scholar

“Robert Harris is the new generation book collector and devotee. He knows his subject and brings it vividly to life.”

Charles Feinberg
Bibliophile

“We were thrilled when Robert Harris accepted our invitation to come to Peking University in Beijing and chair a dinner round table with our faculty.”

Zhao Lourui (Lucy Chen)
Chinese Scholar

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ROBERT HARRIS HAS SOME FRIENDS YOU’RE GOING TO REALLY ENJOY GETTING TO KNOW.

The Life and Times of
Walt Whitman,
Robert Frost,
and Emily Dickinson

A one-of-a-kind presentation that audiences find totally enlightening, thoroughly entertaining, and absolutely enthralling.



Share the Passion:

A lifelong fascination with literature and a commanding stage presence born of years in the classroom combine to make each Robert Harris lecture or workshop a not-to-be-missed event.

An expert on Whitman, Frost, and Dickinson, Harris is an avid collector of books, letters, and other literary memorabilia.

His audiences – be they academic, civic or business – are drawn to his fluency with the lives, work, and abiding influence of a variety of legendary literary figures.

He also addresses the joys of collecting and the ways in which literature continues to enrich the human experience.

WALT WHITMAN 1819 - 1892

Walt Whitman's legacy is unique among American poets.

Considered the father of free verse, his poetry reached out to the common man with an insight and impact that led to his being called "America's Poet."

Leaves of Grass, his landmark book, was a work that consumed much of his life. Whitman self-published the controversial book in 1855, and continued expanding and revising it until his death in 1892.

"The proof of a poet is that his country absorbs him as affectionately as he has absorbed it," Whitman once remarked. More than a century after his death, Whitman and his poetry continue to have a profound impact on the American literary continuum.

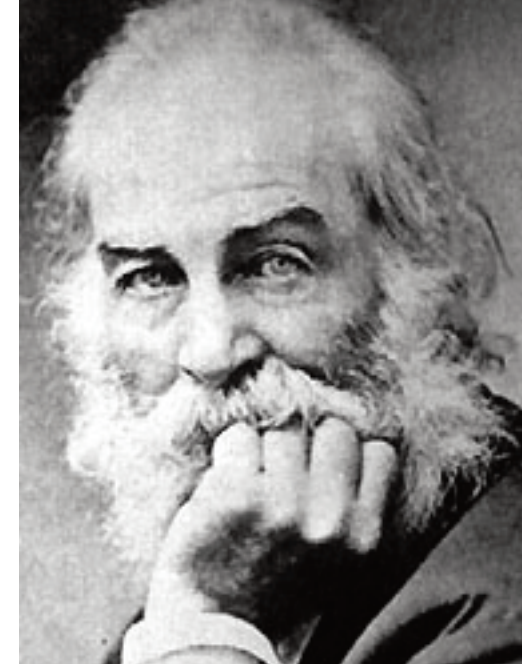


ROBERT FROST 1874 - 1963

Few poets have enjoyed the almost universal acclaim that continues to embrace Robert Frost.

Frost – who spoke at the 1961 inauguration of President John F. Kennedy – was awarded four Pulitzer Prizes for poetry and received more than 40 honorary degrees.

Though his poems touched on many themes, he was best known for his command of American colloquial speech and realistic depictions of rural life in early 20th century New England. Throughout his prolific career he taught, lectured, wrote, and published hundreds of poems.



His poems include not only compelling classics such as "Mending Wall" and "The Death of the Hired Man," but works such as "Stopping by Woods on Snowy Evening" that expressed his reverence for nature.

Frost's appreciation of individualism is perhaps best expressed in "The Road Not Taken," which he wrote in 1915 and has been painstakingly committed to memory by countless students ever since.

EMILY DICKINSON 1830 - 1886

Though Emily Dickinson wrote some 1,800 poems, only a few were published during her lifetime. Known as an eccentric by locals in Amherst, Massachusetts (where she lived her entire life), Dickinson's poetry is known for its short lines and unconventional punctuation and capitalization. Common themes include death and immortality, though she also wrote sensitive love poems.

Her poems – mostly untitled – are deeply personal and express a keen insight into the human condition.

Given that Dickinson is widely recognized as one of America's greatest poets, there is a certain irony in the title of one of her best known poems. Written in 1861, its whimsical title is "I'm Nobody, Who Are You?"

