

Philip Larkin



Philip Larkin wrote poems in a stubbornly old-fashioned manner adopted from Thomas Hardy and W.B. Yeats: most feature set stanzas, regular meter and well-chosen rhymes that clinch his arguments or observations. His matter, meanwhile, is almost always dire: loneliness and the difficulty of love, the obscenity of growing old, the inevitability of death. What makes it all bearable is his absolute frankness and brilliant—if sometimes shocking—sense of humor.