

# Theodore Roethke



Many of Theodore Roethke's finest poems evoke the plant and insect life he knew intimately growing up in Michigan around the greenhouses of his family's floral business. Troubled throughout adulthood by mental instability and alcoholism, he often dwells on his psyche's vulnerability, but also shows a deft comic touch in treating familial and erotic relationships. From 1948 until his death, he was a legendary teacher at the University of Washington; his posthumous collection *The Far Field* won the 1964 National Book Award.