

W.H. AUDEN, THE UNIVERSAL MODERN POET

Coordinators: Ted Gannon, Irv Geller

Often considered England's greatest poet of the twentieth century, Auden is admired for his technical virtuosity and the incorporation in his work of popular culture, current events and vernacular speech. He was also a noted playwright, opera librettist, editor and essayist. Born in England in 1907, he became an advocate of socialism and Freudian psychoanalysis in his youth and later served in the Spanish Civil War. He emigrated to the United States in 1939, rejoined the Anglican Church, based on his belief in man's love for his fellow man. He noted that in the act of writing a poem, he felt he was addressing an individual rather than an impersonal audience, so that when we read his poetry, we are in a way conversing with him.

Readings and other Required Materials:

W.H. Auden, *W.H. Auden: Selected Poems*, Edward Mendelson (editor); Vintage Books, 2008, ISBN 978-0-307-27808-1, \$13.16. (NB. - This "significantly Expanded Edition" contains new material.)

Ted Gannon, retired MD, has coordinated groups on American and English literature.

Irv Geller has an educational background in philosophy and has coordinated groups in history and literature.

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- I
- Introduction
 - 7. Sir, no man's enemy, forgiving all
 - 33. Funeral Blues
 - 35. Lay your sleeping head, my love
 - 36. Spain
 - 37. Johnny
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- II
- 43. As I walked out one evening

- 49. Epitaph on a Tyrant
- 50. In Memory of W.B. Yeats
- 51. Refugee Blues
- 52. The Unknown Citizen

III

- 54. September 1, 1939
- 56. In Memory of Sigmund Freud
- 57. Eyes look into the well
- 59. Song for St. Cecilia's Day
- 61. But I Can't

IV

- 62. In Sickness and in Health
- 67. Mundus et Infans
- 72. Under Which Lyre
- 73. The Fall of Rome
- 74. In Praise of Limestone
- 76. Song

V

- 83. The Shield of Achilles
- 92. First Things First
- 93. The More Loving One
- 94. Friday's Child
- 95. Good-bye to the Mezzogiorno
- 97. You

VI

- 99. After Reading a Child's Guide to Modern Physics
- 104. Amor Loci
- 108. Prologue at Sixty
- 109. Forty Years On
- 110. Ode to Terminus
- 111. August 1968
- 115. Talking to Myself