


English Literature Activities



www.ruthlessteacher.com



Bluebird by Charles Bukowski



Read the text about the poet's life and decide if the sentences that follow are True or False. Then correct the false ones:

Charles Bukowski was an influential American writer known for his candid and unfiltered portrayal of life in the 20th century. Born on August 16, 1920, in Andernach, Germany, he immigrated to the United States with his family when he was two years old. Bukowski's early experiences with poverty and his difficult relationship with his father greatly shaped his worldview and later influenced his writing.



His poetry often draws from his own life, reflecting themes such as love, despair, alcohol, and the struggles of the working class. Bukowski had a unique ability to express raw emotions, capturing the complexities of human existence in a straightforward manner. His style is marked by its simplicity and authenticity, making his work accessible yet profound.

Bukowski published numerous poetry collections, with one of his most acclaimed being *Love is a Dog From Hell*. In this collection, he explores the darker aspects of love and relationships, revealing the pain and pleasure intertwined in human connections. Another significant work is *The Last Night of the Earth Poems*, where he reflects on mortality and the transient nature of life.

Despite facing criticism for his explicit content and gritty realism, Bukowski gained dedicated followers and is often regarded as a voice of the marginalized. His influence can be seen in contemporary literature and popular culture, where his themes of disillusionment resonate with many readers.

Bukowski continued to write and publish until his death on March 9, 1994. Today, his legacy endures through his vivid storytelling and honesty, inspiring generations of writers and poets who seek to convey the complexities of life in their own unique voices.



1. Charles Bukowski was born in the United States.
2. Bukowski's early experiences with poverty influenced his writing.
3. His poetry is known for its complex and ornate language.
4. One of Bukowski's acclaimed poetry collections is *Love is a Dog From Hell*.
5. Bukowski wrote exclusively about happy and idealized relationships.
6. He faced criticism for his explicit content and gritty realism.
7. Bukowski's work primarily focuses on the lives of the wealthy.
8. He published a collection called *The Last Night of the Earth Poems*.
9. Bukowski's influence is not felt in contemporary literature.
10. Bukowski continued to write until his death in 1994.



Now read the poem "Bluebird" below or listen to it on Youtube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lyMS4qJ8NXU>

Bluebird

there's a bluebird in my heart that
wants to get out
but I'm too tough for him,
I say, stay in there, I'm not going
to let anybody see
you.
there's a bluebird in my heart that
wants to get out
but I pour whiskey on him and inhale
cigarette smoke
and the whores and the bartenders
and the grocery clerks
never know that
he's
in there.
there's a bluebird in my heart that
wants to get out
but I'm too tough for him,
I say,
stay down, do you want to mess



me up?
you want to screw up the
works?
you want to blow my book sales in
Europe?
there's a bluebird in my heart that
wants to get out
but I'm too clever, I only let him out
at night sometimes
when everybody's asleep.
I say, I know that you're there,
so don't be
sad.
then I put him back,
but he's singing a little
in there, I haven't quite let him
die
and we sleep together like
that
with our
secret pact
and it's nice enough to
make a man
weep, but I don't
weep, do
you?



Watch an animated video based on this poem and do the activity below:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jsc3ItAKSLc>

Write a paragraph expressing your ideas about the poem and its meaning for you comparing it to the animation as well. How do they make you feel? Justify your thoughts.



You can read more about Bukowski and his poems here:

<https://poets.org/poet/charles-bukowski>

Animation by Monika UMBA *** Cambridge School of Art - 2009

The image of the poet comes from Wikipedia



Thank you for downloading my material! By downloading this you are agreeing that:

The content is the intellectual property of the website www.ruthlessteacher.com and its creator Charisi Giolanta and is protected by law. All the material in print or digital form is intended for personal educational use only. It may in no way be sold, traded, modified, transmitted and/or distributed in whole or in part, nor translated and adapted. Only fragmentary republishing of this educational material is permitted on other websites, provided it is always accompanied by the page name (Ruthless Teacher) and relevant hyperlinks redirecting to <http://ruthlessteacher.com/>. Retransmission and sharing of hyperlinks that lead to direct viewing and saving/downloading of the files is prohibited.

Major thanks to: Canva, Wikipedia and Wikimedia Commons, Pixabay, Pexels, Unsplash, Google Fonts.

For any questions you may have you can message me at info@ruthlessteacher.com

Σας ευχαριστώ που κατεβάσατε το υλικό μου! Αυτόματα συμφωνείτε ότι :

Το περιεχόμενο αποτελεί πνευματική ιδιοκτησία του διαδικτυακού τόπου www.ruthlessteacher.com και της δημιουργού του Χαρίση Γιολάντας και προστατεύεται από τη νομοθεσία. Το εκπαιδευτικό υλικό σε εκτυπώσιμη ή ψηφιακή μορφή προορίζεται για προσωπική εκπαιδευτική χρήση μόνο. Δεν μπορεί σε καμία περίπτωση να αποτελέσει συνολικά ή εν μέρει αντικείμενο πώλησης, διαπραγμάτευσης, τροποποίησης, μετάδοσης ή/και διανομής με κάθε τρόπο. Επιτρέπεται σε άλλους διαδικτυακούς τόπους μόνο η αποσπασματική αναδημοσίευση εκπαιδευτικού υλικού, με την προϋπόθεση να συνοδεύεται πάντα από το όνομα της σελίδας (Ruthless Teacher) και τους σχετικούς υπερσυνδέσμους που ανακατευθύνουν στο <http://ruthlessteacher.com/>. Απαγορεύεται η αναμετάδοση και κοινοποίηση υπερσυνδέσμων που οδηγούν σε απευθείας προβολή και αποθήκευση/download των αρχείων.

Πολλά ευχαριστώ σε: Canva, Wikipedia, Wikimedia Commons, Pixabay, Pexels, Unsplash, Google Fonts.

Για ο,τιδήποτε χρειάζεστε μπορείτε να επικοινωνήσετε μαζί μου στο info@ruthlessteacher.com

Follow me for more educational material-Ακολουθήστε με για περισσότερο υλικό

