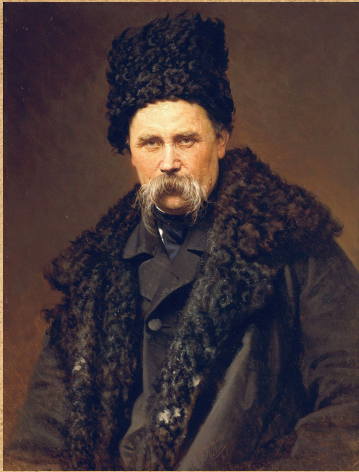
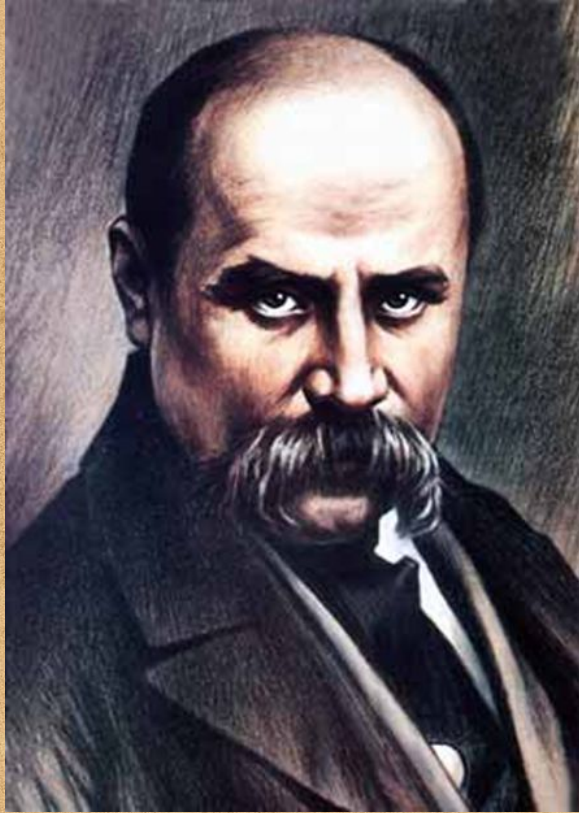


IN THE REALM OF UKRAINIAN POETRY



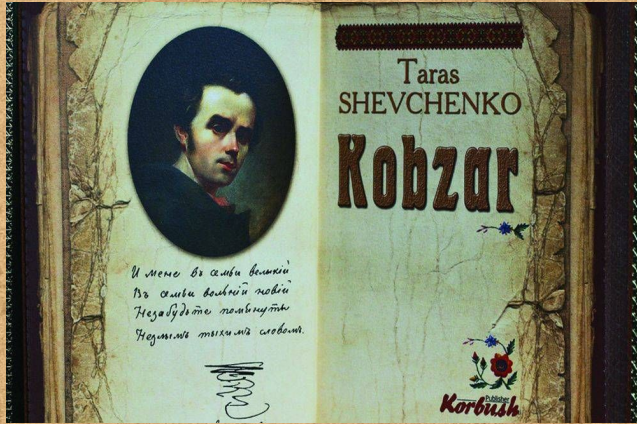
Poets are a special category of people who put their feelings and emotions into verses. Poetic words have tremendous power. They can make people riot and struggle filling their hearts with courage and determination. They can make people laugh and cry, filling their hearts with gentleness and compassion.





Taras Shevchenko

Artist, poet, national bard of Ukraine, Taras Shevchenko was born on 9 March, 1814 in Moryntsi, Kiev gubernia. He was born as a serf. When he was a teenager, he became an orphan. When he was 14, his owner, Engelhard noticed the boy's skills in painting, he apprenticed him to the painter Shiriayev for four years.



Shevchenko's works take an important place in Ukrainian literature and history. His literary output consists of the collection of poetry "Kobzar", the drama "Nazar Stodolia"; two dramatic fragments; nine novelettes, a diary, and an autobiography; and over 250 letters.

Shevchenko was an outstanding poet and a highly accomplished artist. There are 835 works written by him, although 270 are known to have been lost. His collection also contains over 150 portraits, 42 self-portraits. There are many landscapes, watercolours and etchings.



My Testament

Translated by John Weir (1961 - 1962)

When I am dead, then bury me

In my beloved Ukraine,

My tomb upon a grave mound high

Amid the splendid plain.

So that the fields, the boundless
steppes,

The Dnieper's plunging shore

My eyes could see, my ears could hear

The mighty river roar





Ivan Yakovych Franko was a Ukrainian writer, poet, social and literary critic, journalist, interpreter, economist, political activist, doctor of philosophy, ethnographer, the author of the first detective novels and modern poetry in the Ukrainian language.

Ivan Franko was born on the 27th of August 1856 in the village Naguevichi (now Drogobych district, Lviv region) in a family of rural blacksmith. He studied philology, Ukrainian language and literature at Lviv University.

I. Franko in his dramas , lyric poetry, short stories and poems “Moses” and “Noblemen`s Jests” wrote a chronicle of contemporary Galician society and called Ukrainian people to fight against social and national oppression.



Поетичні збірки:
“З вершин і низин”, “Зів'яле листя”,
“Мій Ізмарагд”, “Поєми”, “Із днів журби”
та інші.



Your own eyes are like the
deep sea

Ivan Franko

Your own eyes are like the deep sea
Peaceful, with a lot of light.
My heart`s grief, a long time in me,
Sinks in them, like that fine dust.

Your own eyes as if the well are
With the bottom of pearls, clean,
And the hope, the morning fine star,
Right from them for me will gleam.

Lesya Ukrainka (real name - Larysa Petrivna Kosach, married Kosach-Kvitka) is a Ukrainian writer, translator and cultural activist, co-founder of the literary circle "Pleiada" and the Ukrainian Social Democracy group. In the modern Ukrainian tradition, she is included in the list of the most famous women of ancient and modern Ukraine

She wrote in the genres of poetry, lyric, epic, drama, prose, journalism, developed the genre of dramatic poem in Ukrainian literature. She worked in the field of folkloristics (she sang 220 folk melodies) and was actively involved in the processes of the Ukrainian women's movement and national revival





If I was a song

Lesya Ukrainka

**If I was a song that I'm singing
This time when it's easy to hold,
That carried was freely its meaning
And echoed all over the world.
So that to the stars shining brightly
I reached with my singing so high,
Come down to the waves clear and mighty,
The ocean above that I fly.
Then all my desire that I dream of
As well as my sweet hidden glee
Would sound with the brilliance the stars got,
More thunderous was than the sea.**



Vasyl Stus was born on January 8, 1938 in the village of Rakhnivka, Ukraine, and died on September 4, 1985 in the camp for political prisoners in Russia.

As a poet, Stus started publishing in 1963—1965. His first collections of poetry "Kruhovert" ("The Circuit"), "Zymovi dereva" ("Winter Trees"), and "Veselyj tsvyntar" ("The Merry Cemetery") were written before his incarceration. However, it is his prison poetry, namely the collections "Svicha v svichadi" ("A Candle in a Mirror") and particularly "Palimpsesty" ("Palimpsests") that are considered the height of his creative heritage. Filled with existential anguish, Stus' prison poetry explores the themes of life and death, fate and destiny, individual choice and responsibility. It is the treatment of these themes that places his works in the context of those written by the most distinguished incarcerated intellectuals, such as Paul Verlaine, Taras Shevchenko, Oscar Wilde, Jean Genet, Alexander Solzhenitsyn. Stus also takes the undeniable leading place on the modern Ukrainian literary horizon.

My Ukraine has left behind the laugh

Vasyl Stus

My Ukraine has left behind
The laugh. But it still larks.
My Ukraine hasn't abated
Its boundless vital sparks.
My Ukraine isn't companion
To the cheery dawns
My Ukraine is burning brightly
In the time of woes.
My Ukraine is deeply anxious,
It rebels, and blooms.
And my Homeland isn't helpless
On that vassal place of doom

And its future is still flaming
And it's mourning and it's grieving
In the dark of murky night
For the help it's craving.
It looks in the sky and asks
where're the hopes and grace?
But sees only demons, demons
Only demons in disgrace.
They gather for trophies.
They gather slow-paced
Crucified and tread to pieces,
Parting on the ways.



Lina Kostenko is a prominent Ukrainian poet, writer, and public intellectual. She was born on March 19, 1930, in Rzhyshev, Kiev Oblast, Ukraine. Lina Kostenko grew up in a family of educators.

Kostenko began her career as a writer in the 1950s, during the Soviet era, and quickly gained recognition for her poetry, which focused on themes of love, nature, and the Ukrainian national identity. Her poetry became a voice for many Ukrainians who felt oppressed and silenced by the Soviet regime. She was a member of the Ukrainian Helsinki Group, which advocated for human rights and political freedom in the Soviet Union. She was also an outspoken critic of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster in 1986 and was actively involved in the Ukrainian independence movement in the late 1980s and early 1990s.

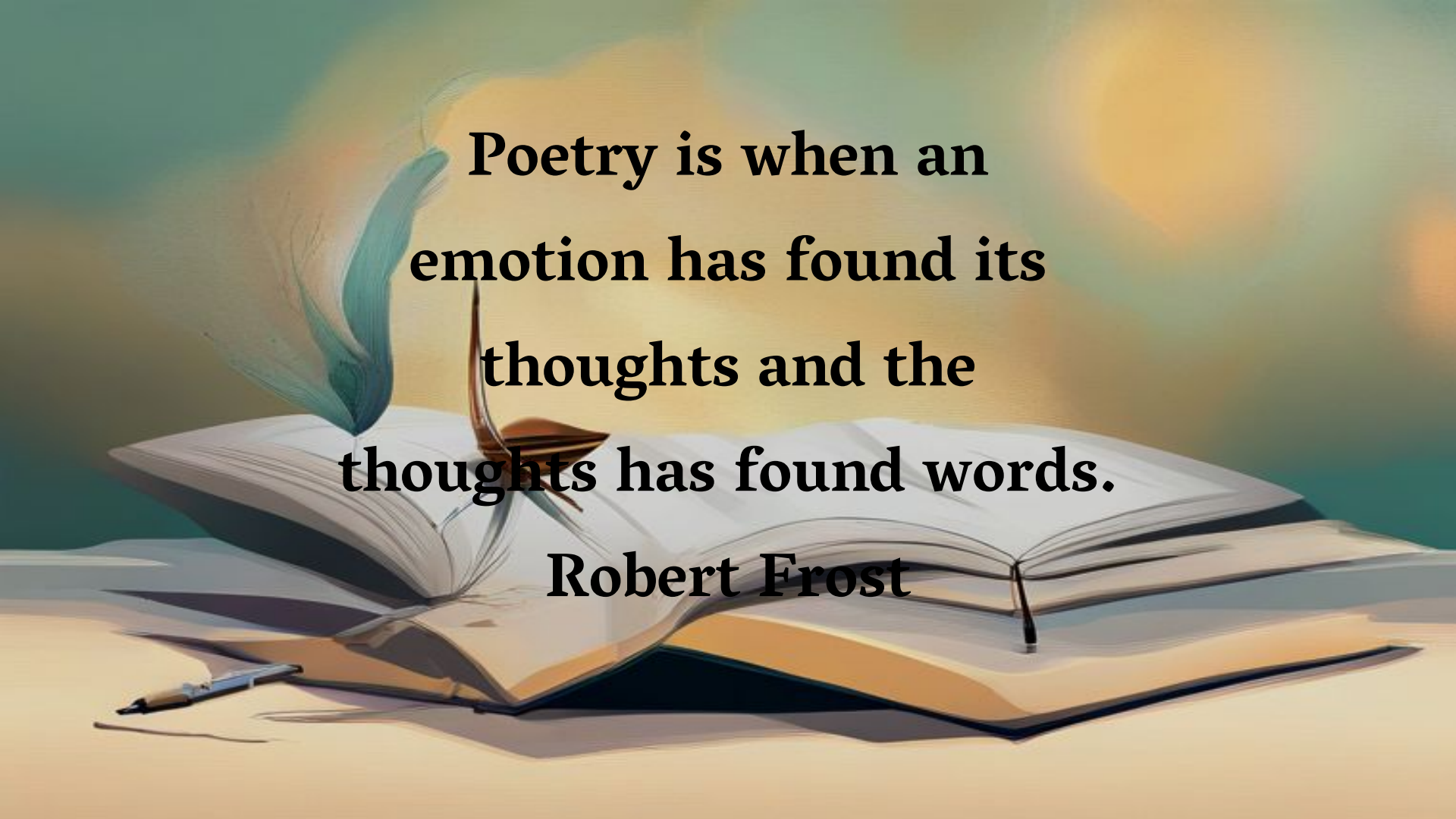
WORDS TERRIFY WHEN THEY REMAIN NOT SPOKEN

Lina Kostenko

(text of the poem translated by Ivan Doan (2023))

Words terrify when they remain not spoken,
When suddenly, they tuck themselves away,
When you don't know how silence can be broken,
For someone else has said all you might say.
These words were once pronounced in tears or pain,
They were the dawn yet also the cessation,
Billions of men, and words, like drops of rain,
For the first time now, they are your creation.
Both beauty and ill will have had their fame,
There have been weeds and roads beneath our sole,
But poetry will never be the same,
It will forever touch the human soul.





**Poetry is when an
emotion has found its
thoughts and the
thoughts has found words.**

Robert Frost