

Robert Burns Quiz

How Did you Do? – Check your answers below

1. Burns first poem was “O once I loved a bonnie lass” Who was the bonnie lass?
2. For what reason, if any, do we accept the Alexander Nasmyth portrait of the poet to be the true likeness?
3. Who was described by the poet’s mother as “very pleasant and winning, though not a beauty”?
4. What were the pen names which Burns and Mrs. McLehose used when corresponding with each other?
5. To whom was Burns referring when he described him as “A gash and faithful tyke”?
6. Burns described Meg in “Duncan Gray” as being “Deaf as Ailsa Craig”. Who or what is Ailsa Craig?
7. For which of Burns’s poems did Felix Mendelssohn compose the music?
8. What, according to festive Burns, didn’t Scotland want?
9. Which Burns song was described by Sir Walter Scott as “The essence of a thousand love tales”?
10. Where was Burns baptized?
11. Where is Burns buried?
12. Burns described Edinburgh as: venerable, respectable, hospitable, imperial queen of cities, etc. But by what nickname is the city known?

ANSWERS:

1. Nellie Kilpatrick – this is believed to be the first poem written by the poet to Nellie (Handsome Nell) who worked alongside him in the harvest fields.
2. In 1834 Burns's' eldest son, Robert, attested that this was a true likeness of his father.
3. Mary Campbell, otherwise known as "Highland Mary"
4. Clarinda and Sylvander
5. His own dog, Luath, one of the characters in "The Twa Dogs"
6. Ailsa Craig is a rocky island in the Firth of Clyde. Also known as "Paddy's milestone" because of its situation halfway between Scotland and Northern Ireland.
7. O Wert Thou in the Cauld Blast
8. Skinking ware … in address to the haggis: he wrote: "Auld Scotland wants nae skinking ware".
9. "Ae Fond Kiss"
10. The Auld Kirk in Ayr
11. St. Michael's Churchyard, Dumfries
12. Auld Reekie