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Coming

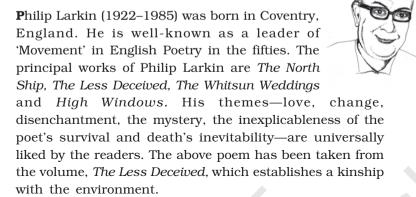


Philip Larkin

On longer evenings, Light, chill and yellow, Bathes the serene Foreheads of houses. A thrush sings, Laurel-surrounded In the deep bare garden, Its fresh-peeled voice Astonishing the brickwork. It will be spring soon, It will be spring soon— And I. whose childhood Is a forgotten boredom, Feel like a child Who comes on a scene Of adult reconciling, And can understand nothing But the unusual laughter, And starts to be happy.

112 Woven Words

ABOUT THE POET



UNDERSTANDING THE POEM

- 1. What does the bird in the poem announce? How is this related to the title, 'Coming'?
- 2. Why is the speaker's childhood described as 'a forgotten boredom'?
- 3. What causes the element of surprise when the child comes on the scene of 'adult reconciling'?
- 4. What two things are compared in the poem?
- 5. How do you respond to these lines?
 Light, chill and yellow,
 Bathes the serene
 Foreheads of houses
- 6. Comment on the use of the phrase 'fresh-peeled voice'.

TRY THIS OUT

- 1. The song of a bird is often the first sign of spring. Do you know the bird that signals the advent of *vasant* or spring in our country?
- 2. Do you know of other spring poems? How is this poem different from them?

SUGGESTED READING

1. 'Ambulances' by Philip Larkin.





Haiku

Haiku is a Japanese three-line poem, usually having 17 syllables, and expresses a single thought. English imitations of the haiku are also very popular.

COBRA

His jewelled crown and hypnotic sway enthral; beware the lethal fangs.

NIGHT

Clouds appear and bring to men a chance to rest looking at the moon.

ALONE

Won't you come and see loneliness? Just one leaf from the Kiri tree.

