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### **Ted Hughes (1930-1998)**

Edward James “Ted Hughes” was an English poet and a children writer. Hughes was British poet laureate following John Betzman from 1984-1998. Hughes was married to American writer Sylvia Plath in 1956 until her suicide in 1963 at the age of 30. His last poetic work Birthday Letters (1998) explained the complex relationship of Hughes and Sylvia Plath. The poem makes a reference to Plath’s suicide but it does not directly addresses the circumstances of her death.

A poem discovered in 2010, Lost Letter describes what happened 3 days before her death. He was born in Yorkshire England to William Henry and Edith Hughes. In 1946, one of Hughes early poems Wild West and a short story were published in Grammar School Magazine. The Don and Derne followed by further poems in 1948. His first published poem appeared in ‘Chequer’. The poem The Little Boy And The Seasons written in 1951 was published in ‘Granta’ under the pseudonym Daniel Hearing. On February 26th 1956, Hughes and his friends held a party to launch St. Botolph’s Review which had a single issue. Hughes had four poems in it. In this party he met Sylvia Plath who was studying at Cambridge. Hughes married to Sylvia on June 16th 1956. The date of Bloomsbury was especially chosen in honors of James Joyce. He wrote the poem that would be published in ‘Wodow’ (1967) and ‘Recklings’ 1966. In March, 1960, Lupercal came out and won the Hawthornden Prize. He found that he was being labeled as ‘the poet of the wild’, writing only about animals. Hughes and Plath had two children Frieda Rebecca and Nicolas Farrar. In 1962, Hughes began an affair with Asia Wevill, that caused Hughes and Plath to be separated in 1962 and she set up life in a new flat with the children. Following Plath’s suicide he wrote two poems “The Howling of Wolves” and “Song of a Rat” then did not write poetry again for three years. In 1966, he wrote poems to accompany Leonard Baskin’s illustration of crows which became the epic narrative Crow: From the Life and Songs of Crow. It is best known work of Hughes. On 25 March 1969, 6 years after Plath’s suicide, Asia Wevill also committed suicide in the same way as Plath with her child and four

years daughter of Hughes. In 1970, Hughes married Carol Orchard, a nurse and they remained together until his death. A memoir by his brother Gerald was published late in 2014 entitled, *Ted and I: A Brothers Memoir* which Kirkus calls, 'A Warm Recollection of A Lauded Poet'. Hughes first collection was *The Hawk in the Rain* (1957), and the second collection was *Lupercal*. In 1998, his *Tales from Ovid* won the Whitbread British book of the year prize. He said that "My poems are not about violence, but vitality". Sylvia Plath told about Hughes "the most rich and powerful since that of Yeats and Dylan Thomas" Major Works of Ted Hughes Poetry Collection *The Hawk in the Rain* (1957) a) *The Hawk in the Rain* b) *The Jaguar* c) *The Thought-Fox*. *Lupercal* (1960) a) *Hawk Roasting* b) *Pike*. *Crow: From Life and the Songs of Crow* (1970) *Wolf watching*(1989). *Tales from Ovid* (1997): a poetic collection of 24 poems, i.e. retelling of twenty-four tales from Ovid's *Metamorphoses*. *Birthday Letters* (1998). *Gaudete*: It is the prose poem Anthologies Edited by Hughes *Selected Poems of Emily Dickinson* *Selected Poems of Sylvia Plath*. *Selected Verse of Shakespeare*. *A Choice of Coleridge's Verse*