Malouf David

David Malouf was born in Brisbane, Australia, to a Lebanese father and an English mother. He attended the Brisbane Grammar school and later received an honors degree in language and literature at the University of Queensland, where he taught English until 1962. His expertise and skill in the use of the English language inspired him to write poems. He published his first poem, "Interiors," in *Four Poets* in 1962.

Malouf is considered both a primitive and a romantic for his uses of nature. His themes include nature, the use of language as a transforming device across cultures, identity, isolation, unity, and belonging. He uses imagery, metaphor, symbolism, and analogy to express these themes.

In "Twelve Night Pieces" from *Poems 1975–76* (1976), he writes, "From wetness of earth and earth rot morning / Glory climbs to the sun … " to reveal the morning glory as a symbol of human connection with nature. In "The Bicycle" from *The Bicycle and Other Poems* (1970), he uses the analogy of the mechanical bicycle and the natural human experience of traveling through life: "Now time yawns and its messengers appear/ like huge stick insects, wingless, spoked with stars…"


Malouf is celebrated as a poet, essayist, novelist, and playwright. He won the Australian Literature Society gold medal for the verse collection *Neighbours in a Thicket* (1974). He also won the Townsville Foundation for Australian Literary Studies Award and the Grace Leven Poetry Prize. The novel *Remembering Babylon* was nominated for the 1993 Booker Prize. Malouf speaks about his passion for writing in his autobiography, *12, Edmonstone Street* (1985). In 2009, Malouf's novel *Ransom* was published. It tells the story of the *Iliad* from the death of Patroclus to the burial of Hector.

Further Information

Other Works by David Malouf


A Work about David Malouf


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