

the cremation of sam mcgee

the cremation of sam mcgee is an iconic narrative poem by Robert W. Service, set against the harsh and icy backdrop of the Yukon during the Klondike Gold Rush. This article provides a comprehensive exploration of the poem's origins, its historical and literary context, the vivid symbolism woven throughout its verses, and the lasting impact it has had on Canadian culture and literature. Readers will discover how Service's storytelling, rich imagery, and memorable characters have kept the poem relevant for more than a century. The article also examines the themes of death, friendship, and survival that make "The Cremation of Sam McGee" a compelling read. With a thorough analysis of the poem's structure, meaning, and legacy, this guide will appeal to literature enthusiasts, students, and anyone interested in the fascinating world of Yukon poetry. Continue reading to uncover the deeper layers of this classic work, its real-life inspirations, and how it continues to captivate audiences today.

- Historical Background and Origins
- Literary Analysis of The Cremation of Sam McGee
- Major Themes and Symbolism
- Impact on Canadian Literature and Culture
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- Legacy and Continued Relevance

Historical Background and Origins

The cremation of sam mcgee was first published in 1907 in Robert W. Service's book "Songs of a Sourdough." The poem is deeply rooted in the Klondike Gold Rush era, a time when prospectors flooded Canada's Yukon territory in search of fortune. Service, often called the "Bard of the Yukon," drew inspiration from real stories and the harsh conditions faced by miners. The poem's chilling setting and dark humor reflect Service's experiences living among the gold seekers in Whitehorse and Dawson City. The narrative is framed by severe cold, isolation, and the unique personalities that inhabited the North during this period.

Robert Service's fascination with Yukon life led him to craft stories that captured the spirit of adventure and survival in the face of extreme adversity. "The Cremation of Sam McGee" stands out for its vivid depiction of the relentless cold and the lengths to which people would go to fulfill a promise. The poem's origins are entwined with Service's encounters with miners and tales of hardship, making it a quintessential representation of northern folklore.

Literary Analysis of The Cremation of Sam McGee

Narrative Structure and Style

The poem is written as a ballad, combining narrative storytelling with melodic rhythm and rhyme. Service utilizes a first-person perspective, drawing readers into the protagonist's journey and emotional state. The language is straightforward yet evocative, painting a stark picture of Yukon's frozen wilderness and the macabre task at hand. The pacing builds suspense, leading to the poem's dramatic climax.

Characterization

Sam McGee, a Tennessee native who cannot tolerate the cold, is portrayed as a tragic yet relatable figure. His companion, the unnamed narrator, is bound by a promise to cremate Sam upon his death. The characters embody the themes of loyalty and endurance, highlighting the bonds formed in extreme circumstances. Service's use of dialogue and dialect adds authenticity and depth to their personalities.

Imagery and Tone

- Vivid descriptions of icy landscapes and frigid temperatures
- Contrasts between warmth and cold, life and death
- Humorous undertones amid grim subject matter
- Atmospheric tension and suspense throughout the narrative

Service's mastery of imagery brings the Yukon to life, immersing readers in the relentless chill and isolation. The poem's tone shifts from darkly comedic to poignant, maintaining a balance between entertainment and emotional depth.

Major Themes and Symbolism

Death and Mortality

The cremation of Sam McGee confronts the inevitability of death head-on, using the promise to cremate Sam as the central motif. The frozen landscape serves as a metaphor for the harsh realities of mortality, while the act of cremation symbolizes release and transformation. Service explores how individuals cope with loss and honor their commitments, even when faced with daunting challenges.

Friendship and Loyalty

One of the poem's most enduring themes is the bond of friendship and the lengths people will go to fulfill a vow. The narrator's determination to keep his promise to Sam, despite the physical and emotional toll, illustrates unwavering loyalty. This theme resonates with readers, emphasizing the importance of trust and companionship in difficult circumstances.

Survival and Adaptation

Set against the backdrop of the Yukon's unforgiving environment, the poem highlights the human instinct to survive. Both Sam and the narrator endure extreme conditions, relying on wit and resourcefulness. The symbolism of fire, warmth, and shelter contrasts with the deadly cold, underscoring the struggle to adapt and persevere.

Impact on Canadian Literature and Culture

Literary Significance

"The Cremation of Sam McGee" is celebrated as one of Canada's most memorable and influential poems. Its popularity has endured for generations, cementing Robert Service's reputation as a master storyteller. The poem's blend of humor, suspense, and vivid imagery has inspired countless writers and artists, becoming a touchstone in Canadian literary tradition.

Cultural Legacy

Beyond literature, the poem has permeated Canadian culture, appearing in music, theater, and visual art. It is frequently recited at events and is taught in schools across the country. The story's connection to the

Yukon and the Gold Rush era has made it a symbol of northern resilience and adventure. Service's work continues to shape perceptions of Canadian identity and history.

Structure and Poetic Devices

Rhyme Scheme and Rhythm

Service employs a consistent rhyme scheme and meter, which gives the poem a musical quality and aids memorability. The rhythm mirrors the journey across the frozen landscape, propelling the narrative forward. This technique enhances the poem's accessibility and appeal, making it suitable for oral recitation.

Use of Repetition and Alliteration

"The Cremation of Sam McGee" features recurring phrases and alliterative lines that reinforce key themes and images. Repetition emphasizes the cold and the characters' emotional states, while alliteration adds to the musicality of the verse. These poetic devices contribute to the work's enduring popularity.

Symbolic Elements

1. Fire and warmth as symbols of life and hope
2. Ice and cold representing death and hardship
3. The journey as a metaphor for personal trial and transformation

Each element serves to deepen the poem's narrative, connecting physical experiences to broader existential questions.

The Real Sam McGee: Fact vs. Fiction

Historical Inspirations

Although Sam McGee was a real person from Tennessee, the events described in the poem are fictionalized. Service met McGee in Whitehorse, but the story of his cremation was invented for dramatic

effect. The blending of fact and fiction adds intrigue and allows readers to engage with the legend while appreciating the historical context.

Influence of Real Events

Service's choice to use a real name and setting grounds the poem in reality, while the fantastical narrative invites interpretation and speculation. This interplay between truth and imagination is a hallmark of Service's storytelling style.

Legacy and Continued Relevance

Enduring Popularity

Over a century after its publication, "The Cremation of Sam McGee" remains a staple of Canadian literature. Its themes of perseverance, loyalty, and survival continue to resonate with readers of all ages. The poem's adaptability has ensured its place in classrooms, anthologies, and popular culture.

Modern Interpretations

Contemporary artists, educators, and performers regularly revisit and reinterpret the poem, exploring new angles and meanings. Its universal themes and engaging narrative make it a timeless work that bridges generations and cultural boundaries.

The cremation of sam mcgee stands as a testament to the power of storytelling, capturing the essence of the Yukon and the human spirit's resilience in the face of adversity.

Q: What is "The Cremation of Sam McGee" about?

A: "The Cremation of Sam McGee" is a narrative poem by Robert W. Service that tells the story of a Yukon prospector, Sam McGee, who asks his friend to cremate him after death due to his inability to tolerate the cold. The poem follows the friend's journey to honor this promise amidst the harsh northern winter.

Q: Who wrote "The Cremation of Sam McGee"?

A: The poem was written by Robert W. Service, a British-Canadian poet known for his works inspired by the Klondike Gold Rush and Yukon life.

Q: Is Sam McGee a real person?

A: Yes, Sam McGee was a real person from Tennessee who lived in the Yukon. However, the events described in the poem are fictional and created by Service for dramatic effect.

Q: What are the major themes of the poem?

A: The poem explores themes such as death and mortality, friendship and loyalty, survival, and the harshness of northern life during the Gold Rush.

Q: When was "The Cremation of Sam McGee" published?

A: "The Cremation of Sam McGee" was first published in 1907 in Robert W. Service's collection "Songs of a Sourdough."

Q: Why is the poem significant in Canadian literature?

A: The poem is significant because it captures the spirit and challenges of the Yukon, showcases Service's storytelling talent, and has become a cultural touchstone in Canada.

Q: What poetic devices are used in the poem?

A: Service employs rhyme, rhythm, repetition, alliteration, and vivid imagery to create a memorable and engaging narrative.

Q: How does the poem reflect life in the Yukon during the Gold Rush?

A: The poem illustrates the extreme cold, isolation, and camaraderie among prospectors, as well as the lengths people go to survive and fulfill promises in a harsh environment.

Q: What is the tone of "The Cremation of Sam McGee"?

A: The tone is a mix of dark humor, suspense, and poignancy, balancing grim subject matter with engaging storytelling.

Q: How has "The Cremation of Sam McGee" influenced popular culture?

A: The poem has inspired adaptations in music, theater, and art, and is frequently recited and taught in schools, reflecting its lasting impact on Canadian culture.

The Cremation Of Sam McGee

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The Cremation of Sam McGee: A Deep Dive into Robert Service's Classic Ballad

Are you captivated by tales of the Yukon, frostbite, and unlikely friendships forged in the face of harsh realities? Then buckle up, because we're diving deep into Robert Service's chilling yet strangely heartwarming poem, "The Cremation of Sam McGee." This blog post will explore the poem's compelling narrative, its enduring popularity, its thematic depth, and the literary devices that make it a timeless classic. We'll unpack the symbolism, analyze the characters, and ultimately understand why "The Cremation of Sam McGee" continues to resonate with readers over a century later.

The Narrative Heart of the Yukon: Unpacking the Story

"The Cremation of Sam McGee" tells the story of a Yukon prospector, Sam McGee, who makes a deathbed request to his friend, the narrator, to cremate him upon his demise. This isn't just any cremation; Sam dreads a freezing Yukon grave and passionately desires the warmth of a fiery funeral pyre. The narrator, initially hesitant, ultimately agrees, facing countless challenges in the harsh Yukon wilderness to fulfill his friend's unusual wish. The poem details their arduous journey, highlighting the unforgiving landscape and the unwavering friendship that drives the narrator. This isn't merely a tale of death; it's a testament to loyalty and the strength of human bonds in the face of adversity.

A Deeper Look at Character Development

The poem's strength lies in its vividly drawn characters. Sam McGee isn't just a stereotypical prospector; his fear of a cold death reveals a vulnerability that humanizes him despite the rugged setting. He's a man who craves warmth, not just physical but emotional, underscoring the loneliness often experienced in such isolated environments. The narrator, although initially resistant to Sam's bizarre request, eventually demonstrates remarkable loyalty and resourcefulness, highlighting the transformative power of friendship. This contrasts with the harsh, unforgiving environment and

creates a poignant narrative arc.

Analyzing the Literary Devices Used

Service masterfully employs various literary devices to enhance the poem's impact. The narrative structure, using first-person perspective, immerses the reader directly into the story. The vivid imagery of the Yukon landscape, from the "blazing fire" to the "icy wind," creates a strong sense of place and atmosphere. The use of rhyme and rhythm further adds to the poem's musicality, enhancing its memorability and making it readily accessible to a wider audience. The repetition of key phrases and images reinforces the central themes of the poem, driving home the central conflict and ultimate resolution.

The Enduring Appeal of "The Cremation of Sam McGee"

The enduring popularity of "The Cremation of Sam McGee" stems from its compelling narrative, relatable characters, and evocative imagery. The poem taps into universal themes of friendship, fear of death, and the human desire for warmth and comfort. It transcends its specific setting, offering a timeless exploration of human relationships and resilience in the face of hardship. The unexpected twist at the end, the surprising warmth from the cremation pyre, leaves a lasting impression, solidifying the poem's position as a classic of the genre. It's a testament to the power of storytelling and the lasting impact of a well-crafted narrative.

Symbolism and Thematic Exploration

Beyond the surface narrative, "The Cremation of Sam McGee" offers rich symbolic interpretations. The fire, initially representing a desperate solution to a unique fear, can be seen as a symbol of life, warmth, and renewal. The icy Yukon landscape symbolizes the harsh realities of life and the potential for isolation and suffering. The friendship between the narrator and Sam McGee represents the importance of human connection in the face of adversity. Analyzing these symbolic elements deepens the understanding and appreciation of the poem's enduring power.

Conclusion

"The Cremation of Sam McGee" is far more than just a captivating tale of the Yukon. It's a powerful exploration of human nature, friendship, and the struggle against the elements, both physical and emotional. Service's mastery of language, vivid imagery, and compelling narrative have ensured its enduring popularity, making it a classic of literature that continues to resonate with readers today. Its thematic richness and literary merit solidify its place as a significant piece of Canadian literature.

and a testament to the enduring power of storytelling.

FAQs

Q1: What is the central conflict in "The Cremation of Sam McGee"?

A1: The central conflict is Sam McGee's fear of a frozen grave and his desperate request for cremation, coupled with the narrator's struggle to fulfill this unusual wish in the unforgiving Yukon wilderness.

Q2: What literary devices are most prominent in the poem?

A2: The poem heavily utilizes vivid imagery, rhyme, rhythm, first-person narration, and repetition to create a strong sense of place, atmosphere, and memorability.

Q3: What are the major themes explored in "The Cremation of Sam McGee"?

A3: Major themes include friendship, death, the power of human connection, overcoming adversity, and the stark realities of the Yukon landscape.

Q4: Why is "The Cremation of Sam McGee" considered a classic?

A4: Its enduring appeal comes from its compelling narrative, relatable characters, evocative imagery, and timeless exploration of universal human themes, making it accessible and meaningful to readers across generations.

Q5: What is the significance of the fire in the poem?

A5: The fire symbolizes warmth, life, and ultimately, a kind of ironic rebirth for Sam McGee, contrasting sharply with the icy death he so feared and providing a powerful, unexpected resolution.

the cremation of sam mcgee: The Cremation of Sam McGee Robert Service, 2013-03-01 In 1986 Kids Can Press published an edition of Robert Service's "The Cremation of Sam McGee" illustrated by painter Ted Harrison, who used his signature broad brushstrokes and unconventional choice of color to bring this gritty narrative poem to life. Evoking both the spare beauty and the mournful solitude of the Yukon landscape, Harrison's paintings proved the perfect match for Service's masterpiece about a doomed prospector adrift in a harsh land. Harrison's Illustrator's Notes on each page enhanced both poem and illustrations by adding valuable historical background. Upon its original publication, many recognized the book as an innovative approach to illustrating poetry for children. For years The Cremation of Sam McGee has stood out as a publishing landmark, losing none of its appeal both as a read-aloud and as a work of art. Kids Can Press proudly publishes this deluxe hardcover twentieth anniversary edition --- complete with a spot-varnished cover, new cover art and heavy coated stock --- of a book that remains as entrancing as a night sky alive with the vibrant glow of the Northern Lights.

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him when he dies, which the companion does--to his great surprise.

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Presentation of one of Robert Service's well-loved poems.

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the cremation of sam mcgee: The Cremation of Sam McGee Del Leonard Jones, 2018-09-11 An historical novel set in 1898 during the days of Yellow Journalism, the Spanish-American War and the Klondike Gold Rush. At the behest of newspaper mogul William Randolph Hearst, celebrated correspondent Jayson Kelley goes to Havana to report on the escalating tensions in Cuba's bid for independence. Except most of his front-page stories are fabricated to spread warmongering propaganda and boost readership in journalism's own circulation war at home. When Jayson meets Sam McGee and his beautiful but aloof sister Luisa, he knows he has his next story, crafting an unbelievable tale of heroism that leaves Sam dead and Luisa on the run. As the Spanish-American War unfolds, Jayson travels from the heat of Havana to the frozen Klondike at the height of the Gold Rush to fulfill an impossible promise he made to the best friend he's ever known and find the woman who stole his heart. Based on the poems of Robert W. Service, Del Leonard Jones's debut novel is a richly-told historical fable about yellow journalism, fame, love, lies and redemption that isn't too far from the truth-and feels eerily believable in today's political climate, twenty-four-hour news cycle, and the cutthroat competition for clicks. Sam McGee is an epic battle for the high ground of honesty that continues to this day.

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the cremation of sam mcgee: Strange Things Done Elle Wild, 2016-09-24 As winter closes in and the roads snow over in Dawson City, journalist Jo Silver investigates the dubious suicide of a local politician — and quickly discovers that nothing in the sleepy mining town is what it seems.

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Daniel Pinkwater's story of how Neddie, a shaman, a ghost, three pals, and a maneuver known as the French substitution determine the fate of the world. Melvin the Shaman. Sandor Eucalyptus. Billy the Phantom Bellboy. Daniel Pinkwater's weird and wonderful tale of Neddie Wentworthstein's quest to save civilization features some of the most unique heroes and villains a reader could hope to meet. Despite the heavy responsibility that Neddie must carry (not every kid is charged with rescuing humankind from doom), his story is hilarious, warm, welcoming, and sweet.

the cremation of sam mcgee: At The Bat: The Strikeout That Shamed America del Leonard Jones, 2020-08-17 A sweeping historical novel set in the 1888 dawn of professional baseball when Blacks were banned, umpires were routinely beaten, and the game shifted from a collegial pastime of gentlemen to a nasty fight to the death by gritty Irish immigrants. Del Leonard Jones, author of *The Cremation of Sam McGee*, is trailblazing a new flavor of historical novel built upon the beloved ballads that have withstood time. The best of work of adult baseball fiction since *The Natural*, *Wild West* magazine says: Fans won't want this fascinating last at-bat ever to end. At the Bat: The Strikeout that Shamed America is filled with rich characters and a unique narrative of folklore. It really is such a gem. I love the fluidity of time in the story. I love how the umpire Walter Brewster is an on the spectrum character, lovable and pure, whose moral compass never waivers. He is a true hero. Del strikes a nice balance in the tone, with alternating moments of humor and heartbreak. There are so many wonderful layers to this story. It could be read again and again -- each time delivering something new. Bravo!! - T. Greenwood, author of *Keeping Lucy*. Outrageously wonderful! In the capable hands of Del Jones, Casey's legendary at-bat might be the longest and most riotous in baseball history, real or imagined. Anyone who has ever recited or listened to Ernest Thayer's 1888 poem will know the outcome. But Mr. Jones tells us what happened before, during and afterward not only to Casey himself but also to Nellie Bly, the world-renowned reporter, and two masked men behind the plate, antiheroic umpire Walter Brewster and disguised catcher Grasshopper Nova. They delightfully expand in prose that time-honored verse. Fans won't want this fascinating last at-bat to ever end. Thank the baseball gods that there is no clock to confine our National Pastime. Del Jones, the author of *The Cremation of Sam McGee*, strikes again and does not strike out! - Gregory Lalire, editor of *Wild West* magazine and author of *Our Frontier Pastime*, 1804-1815.

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the cremation of sam mcgee: Dan McGrew, Sam McGee : the Poems of Robert Service Robert William Service, 1996 This volume contains fifty-seven poems by the incomparable Robert Service, including: *The Pines*; *The Spell of the Yukon*; *Over the Parapet*; *The Ballad of Blasphemous Bill*; *The Shooting of Dan McGrew*; *The Trail of Ninety-Eight*; *The Cremation of Sam McGee*; *The Ballad of Pious Pete*; *The Trapper's Christmas Eve*; *The Law of the Yukon*; *The March of the Dead*; *The Ballad of One-Eyed Mike*; *Bill the Bomber*; *The Blind and the Dead*; etc.

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start walking a healing path. From the very first page, Grief Doodling invites action. Topics range from the benefits of doodling, to why doodling is fun, to doodling tips, and responding to doodling prompts. The prompts, based on grief research, promote self-worth and healing. This is a hopeful book---something all grieving kids need. Grief Doodling will take the reader's hand and lead them down an inspiring and whimsical path toward healing. Hodgson has created a magnificent tool that every person experiencing loss should have at their fingertips. I love this book! - Sandy Goodman, grief speaker and author of *Love Never Dies* Grief Doodling is an insightful, creative way for tweens and teens to express and process grief. Hodgson aptly reminds readers that there is no right or wrong way to doodle---or to grieve. Hodgson's illustrations are poignant in how they illustrate and bio-psycho-social impact of grief. Grief Doodling will help children and bereaved people of all ages. - Heidi Smith, Fellow in Thantology, Certified Grief Therapist

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the cremation of sam mcgee: *The Cremation of Sam McGee and Other Poems* Robert Service, 1989 Acclaimed northern artist Ted Harrison's spectacular paintings capture the essence of the Arctic's rugged and diverse landscape, providing a perfect complement to Robert W. Service's classic poem.

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the cremation of sam mcgee: *Poems to Learn by Heart* Caroline Kennedy, 2013-03-26 For this companion to her New York Times best-selling collection *A Family of Poems*, Caroline Kennedy has hand-selected more than a hundred of her favorite poems that lend themselves to memorization. Some are joyful. Some are sad. Some are funny and lighthearted. Many offer layers of meaning that reveal themselves only after the poem has been studied so closely as to be learned by heart. In issuing the challenge to memorize great poetry, Caroline Kennedy invites us to a deeply enriching experience. For as she reminds us, "If we learn poems by heart, not only do we have their wisdom to draw on, we also gain confidence, knowledge and understanding that no one can take away." Illustrated with gorgeous, original watercolor paintings by award-winning artist Jon J Muth, this is truly a book for all ages, and one that families will share again and again. Caroline's thoughtful introductions shed light on the many ways we can appreciate poetry, and the special tradition of memorizing and reciting poetry that she celebrates within her own family.

the cremation of sam mcgee: *Bar-Room Ballads* Robert William Service, 2021-08-30 This book showcases the remarkable talent of Robert William Service, the renowned British-Canadian poet, and writer known as the Bard of the Yukon. It offers a delightful blend of poems capturing the essence of the Yukon gold rush and exploring the trials and tribulations of ordinary existence. Immerse yourself in Service's lyrical verses and discover the beauty of his storytelling.

the cremation of sam mcgee: *The King of Mazy May* Jack London, 2017-12-09 *The King of Mazy May* is a short story by Jack London. John Griffith Jack London (born John Griffith Chaney, January 12, 1876 - November 22, 1916) was an American author, journalist, and social activist. He was a pioneer in the then-burgeoning world of commercial magazine fiction and was one of the first fiction writers to obtain worldwide celebrity and a large fortune from his fiction alone. He is best remembered as the author of *The Call of the Wild* and *White Fang*, both set in the Klondike Gold

Rush, as well as the short stories *To Build a Fire*, *An Odyssey of the North*, and *Love of Life*. He also wrote of the South Pacific in such stories as *The Pearls of Parlay* and *The Heathen*, and of the San Francisco Bay area in *The Sea Wolf*. London was a passionate advocate of unionization, socialism, and the rights of workers and wrote several powerful works dealing with these topics such as his dystopian novel *The Iron Heel*, his non-fiction exposé *The People of the Abyss*, and *The War of the Classes*. On July 12, 1897, London (age 21) and his sister's husband Captain Shepard sailed to join the Klondike Gold Rush. This was the setting for some of his first successful stories. London's time in the Klondike, however, was detrimental to his health.

the cremation of sam mcgee: *In Fine Form* Kate Braid, Sandy Shreve, 2013-12-18 In the decade since the publication of the first edition of *In Fine Form*, there has been a resurgence of poets writing in form - in sonnets and ghazals, triolets and ballads, villanelles and palindromes -- and formal poetry has become more visible in books, literary journals and classrooms. The first edition of this anthology was called groundbreaking, a paradigm shift and a landmark text. Since then, it has gone through several printings and been widely used in classrooms at all levels from elementary school to university, by writers who want to try something new, and by readers eager to explore a whole other side of poetry. *In Fine Form Second Edition*, is an anthology that continues to break new ground, a thrilling collection of more than 25 forms and 180 poems arranged by section, one for each form, with a brief introduction to the form's history and variations. An extended essay explores common poetic terms and technical devices. Surprising and exhilarating, here is a showcase for some of the best poetry this country has produced.

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the cremation of sam mcgee: *Yukon Poems of Robert W. Service* Robert Service, 1998-12

the cremation of sam mcgee: *A study guide for Robert Service's "The Cremation of Sam McGee"* Gale, Cengage Learning, 2015-03-13 A study guide for Robert Service's *The Cremation of Sam McGee*, excerpted from Gale's acclaimed *Poetry for Students* series. This concise study guide includes plot summary; character analysis; author biography; study questions; historical context; suggestions for further reading; and much more. For any literature project, trust *Poetry for Students* for all of your research needs.

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because he is young and aboriginal. It is also where young girls share secrets, movies, cigarettes, Big Gulps and stories of love—where a young mother full of both maternal trepidation and joy watches her small daughters as they play in the park. In *North End Love Songs*, Katherena Vermette uses spare language and brief, telling sketches to illuminate the aviary of a prairie neighbourhood. Vermette's love songs are unconventional and imminent, an examination and a celebration of family and community in all weathers, the beautiful as well as the less clement conditions. This collection is a very moving tribute, to the girls and the women, the boys and the men, and the loving trouble that has forever transpired between us. – Joanne Arnott

From a mixed-blood M'tis woman with Mennonite roots, Kate weaves a story that winds its way through the north end (Nor-tend) of Winnipeg. It's a story of death, birth, survival, beauty and ugliness; through it all there are glimmers of hope, strength, and a will to survive whatever this city throws at you. – Duncan Mercredi

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