

# DIGGING



BY

SEAMUS HEANEY



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POWER POINT PRESENTATION

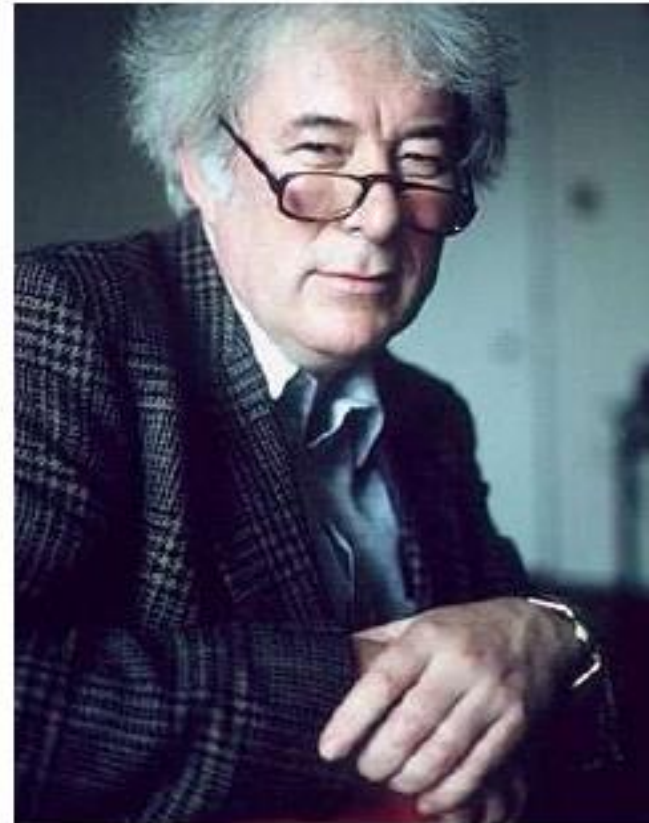
BY

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# Biography

- Roman Catholic in Protestant North Ireland
- Seamus Heaney was born in Castledawson, County Derry, Northern Ireland, on April 13, 1939.
- In 1963, he began teaching English at St. Joseph's College in Belfast. He earned his teaching certificate in English at the same school.
- In 1965, he married Marie Devlin, and in 1966, he published his first book, *Death of a Naturalist*.
- In 1995, he received the Nobel Prize in Literature.
- He has spent part of every year since 1981 teaching at Harvard University.



# STANZA 1



- Between my finger and my thumb  
The squat pen rests; snug as a gun.



# Stanza 2



Under my window, a clean rasping sound  
When the spade sinks into gravelly ground:  
My father, digging . I look down  
Till his straining rump among the flowerbeds bends  
low,





Comes up twenty years away

Stooping in rhythm through potato drills

Where he was digging.

The coarse boot nestled on the lug, the shaft

Against the inside knee was levered firmly.

He rooted out tall tops, buried the bright edge deep

# Stanza 3



☞ To scatter new potatoes that we picked,  
Loving their cool hardness in our hands.



By God the old man could handle a spade.  
Just like his old man.

# Stanza 4



My grandfather cut more turf in a day  
Than any other man on Toners bog.  
Once I carried him milk in a bottle  
Corked sloppily with paper.







He straightened up to drink it,  
Then fell to right away  
Nicking and slicing neatly, heaving sods  
Over his shoulder, going down and down  
For the good turf. Digging.

# stanza5



❧ The cold smell of potato mould, the squelch and  
slap

Of soggy peat, the curt cuts of an edge



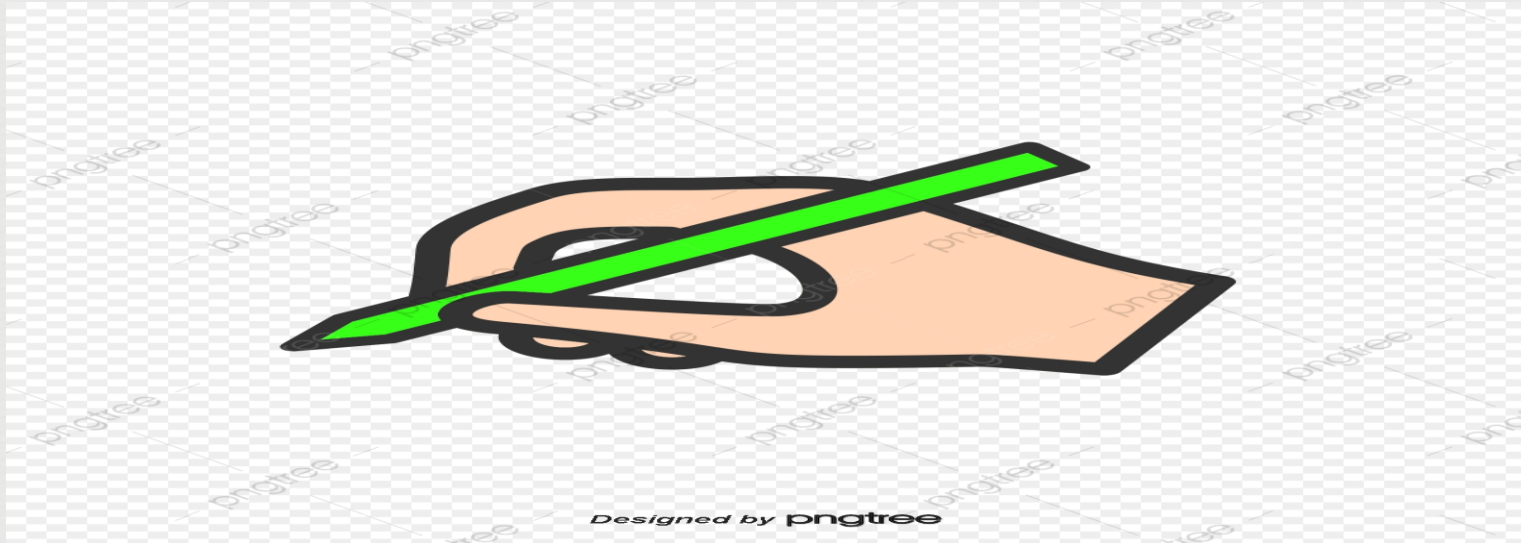
Through living roots awaken in my head.  
But I've no spade to follow men like them.



# Stanza 6



Between my finger and my thumb  
The squat pen rests.  
i'll dig with it.



# Glossary



- ❧ Squat : short and thickest in body
- ❧ Snug : very tight
- ❧ Rasping : unpleasant sound
- ❧ Gravelly : rough sand
- ❧ Rump (humorous): the buttocks
- ❧ Heaving : to lift up a heavy object over your shoulder.



⌘ Peat : a brown soil which contains organic matter.  
Such as decomposing vegetables.

⌘ Curt : rude; direct; without any formalities .

# Short answer type questions

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1. what does the young poet take to his grandfather?  
What does it tell you about him and the grandfather?
2. what does the word “dig” mean here ? Is it only agricultural?

# Long answer type questions



1. Write a note on how the three men hold their respective tools. Is it a serious experience?  
Elaborate
2. What is the common to all three generations?  
What is transmitted from father to son regarding work?



Thank you

