

**Pablo Neruda**

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**Introduction:**

I chose Pablo Neruda as my well-known poet. I chose him because his poems are very inspiring and very wonderful to read. Some of his poems are very emotional like “*Tonight I Can Write The Saddest Lines”* and some are very sad love poems. His poems are very creative and use a lot of imagery in his poems to express meanings. Another reason I pick Pablo Neruda is that I remembered he won the Nobel Prize! Winning the Nobel Prize is very honoring and he was like the top 10 most famous poets of all time! He also was once called “the greatest poet if the 20th century in any language” by the Colombian novelist, Gabriel Graica Marquez.

I think Pablo’s poems are important and worth reading because they talk about the meaning and values of love and a lot of his poems are about love and they’re really touching and meaningful. Some of his poems can even make you relate to your own life. It’s worth to read it in Spanish (Pablo’s original language for his poems) and appreciate Pablo’s poetic words. Even though you might not understand his languages, the music of his language is fascinating and would hold anyone’s attention to his poems. Pablo writes various poems on all sort of topics and attractive to all people of all ages and interests. He wrote poems about [love](http://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Love), on historical events (like [wars](http://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/War)), he wrote about native people, about [nature](http://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nature) and about simple things. Many of his poems were used in movies and used as music. And this is also why other people would enjoy his poems.

I have learned a lot of things from Pablo Neruda. One big thing I learned from him is that “*Love is a journey through waters and stars… Love is a war of lightning…”* this means that love is slow and enjoyable and quick. (From *Carnal Apple, Woman Filled, Burning Moon*) We all can learn a lot of stuff about love from Pablo Neruda.

**Biography:**

Pablo Neruda was born in Chile on July 12, 1904 and lived through 1904 to 1973. His real name from given birth is Neftali Ricardo Reyes Basoalto. His parents are Rosa Basoalto (mom) and Jose Del Carmen Reyes Morales (dad). Pablo Neruda started to have interest in poetry when he was in a very young age of teenager. He started to publish love poems such as the one in the 1924 collection of *Twenty Love Poems and a Song of Despair,* which has been sold over a million copies after it was first sold and that’s how Pablo became famous and important from that on*.* He usually writes poems in green ink, as a personal symbol of desire and hope.

Before being real famous and popular, Pablo wrote the daily La Mañan, publishing his first poems and articles. In 1923, Pablo wrote the first volume, *Books of Twilights,* followed by *Twenty Love Poems and a Song of Despair* the next year in 1924. He then wrote many poems after being famous and important. His last poem was the *Book of Questions.* In 1945, Pablo read to 100,000 people in [Pacaembu Stadium](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pacaembu_Stadium) in [São Paulo](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/SÃ£o_Paulo), [Brazil](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brazil). Pablo also won a lot of awards through his life of poetry. In 1950, he won the International Peace Prize. In 1953, he won the the Lenin Peace Prize and the Stalin Peace Prize. Lastly, he won the Nobel Peace Prize for Literature in 1971.

Some major themes/ideas that Pablo writes about are on [love](http://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Love), on historical events (like [wars](http://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/War)), he wrote about native people, about [nature](http://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nature) and about simple things. You can find these themes in *“Canto General”* (1950)

**Tonight I Can Write The Saddest Lines**

Tonight I can write the saddest lines.  
  
Write, for example, 'The night is starry  
and the stars are blue and shiver in the distance.'  
  
The night wind revolves in the sky and sings.  
  
Tonight I can write the saddest lines.  
I loved her, and sometimes she loved me too.  
  
Through nights like this one I held her in my arms.  
I kissed her again and again under the endless sky.  
  
She loved me, sometimes I loved her too.  
How could one not have loved her great still eyes.  
  
Tonight I can write the saddest lines.  
To think that I do not have her. To feel that I have lost her.  
  
To hear the immense night, still more immense without her.  
And the verse falls to the soul like dew to the pasture.  
What does it matter that my love could not keep her.  
The night is starry and she is not with me.  
  
This is all. In the distance someone is singing. In the distance.  
My soul is not satisfied that it has lost her.  
  
My sight tries to find her as though to bring her closer.  
My heart looks for her, and she is not with me.  
  
The same night whitening the same trees.  
We, of that time, are no longer the same.  
  
I no longer love her, that's certain, but how I loved her.  
My voice tried to find the wind to touch her hearing.  
  
Another's. She will be another's. As she was before my kisses.  
Her voice, her bright body. Her infinite eyes.  
  
I no longer love her, that's certain, but maybe I love her.  
Love is so short, forgetting is so long.  
  
Because through nights like this one I held her in my arms  
my soul is not satisfied that it has lost her.  
  
Though this be the last pain that she makes me suffer  
and these the last verses that I write for her.

-*Pablo Neruda*

**I Do Not Love You**

I do not love you as if you were salt-rose, or topaz,   
or the arrow of carnations the fire shoots off.   
I love you as certain dark things are to be loved,   
in secret, between the shadow and the soul.   
  
I love you as the plant that never blooms   
but carries in itself the light of hidden flowers;   
thanks to your love a certain solid fragrance,   
risen from the earth, lives darkly in my body.   
  
I love you without knowing how, or when, or from where.   
I love you straightforwardly, without complexities or pride;   
so I love you because I know no other way than this:   
where I does not exist, nor you,   
so close that your hand on my chest is my hand,   
so close that your eyes close as I fall asleep.

-*Pablo Neruda*

**‘Carnal Apple, Woman Filled, Burning Moon’**

Carnal apple, Woman filled, burning moon,  
dark smell of seaweed, crush of mud and light,  
what secret knowledge is clasped between your pillars?  
What primal night does Man touch with his senses?  
Ay, Love is a journey through waters and stars,  
through suffocating air, sharp tempests of grain:  
Love is a war of lightning,  
and two bodies ruined by a single sweetness.  
Kiss by kiss I cover your tiny infinity,  
your margins, your rivers, your diminutive villages,  
and a genital fire, transformed by delight,  
slips through the narrow channels of blood  
to precipitate a nocturnal carnation,  
to be, and be nothing but light in the dark.

*-Pablo Neruda*

**If You Forget Me**

I want you to know  
one thing.  
  
You know how this is:  
if I look  
at the crystal moon, at the red branch  
of the slow autumn at my window,  
if I touch  
near the fire  
the impalpable ash  
or the wrinkled body of the log,  
everything carries me to you,  
as if everything that exists,  
aromas, light, metals,  
were little boats  
that sail  
toward those isles of yours that wait for me.  
  
Well, now,  
if little by little you stop loving me  
I shall stop loving you little by little.  
  
If suddenly  
you forget me  
do not look for me,  
for I shall already have forgotten you.  
  
If you think it long and mad,  
the wind of banners  
that passes through my life,  
and you decide  
to leave me at the shore  
of the heart where I have roots,  
remember  
that on that day,  
at that hour,  
I shall lift my arms  
and my roots will set off  
to seek another land.  
  
But  
if each day,  
each hour,  
you feel that you are destined for me  
with implacable sweetness,  
if each day a flower  
climbs up to your lips to seek me,  
ah my love, ah my own,  
in me all that fire is repeated,  
in me nothing is extinguished or forgotten,  
my love feeds on your love, beloved,  
and as long as you live it will be in your arms  
without leaving mine

*-Pablo Neruda*

**“Tonight I Can Write The Saddest Lines” Poem Analysis**

In “Tonight I Can Write The Saddest Lines” by Pablo Neruda, the narrator talks about love. He talks about that he lost this girl who he’d loved greatly before. The narrator feels very unsatisfied about the loss, and in this poem, Pablo alks and thinks about her.

I think the narrator is trying to say that love is very short, but forgetting is very long. Since Pablo loses his girl, it had been a short period of time that they were together and in love. But now that Pablo loses his loved girl, he keeps thinking about her for a long time. So he can’t forget her so easily and very long time. Using a lot of imageries like “The night is starry and the stars are blue and shiver in the distance”  
 and “And the verse falls to the soul like dew to the pasture”, the poet is able to make the reader feel some kind of way. It makes the readers feel the sadness of love and to let the readers know that love is so short, but forgetting is so long. It also uses repetition of saying “Tonight I Can Write The Saddest Lines” because it’s important to the poem and it’s emotional to the poem.

**“I Do Not Love You” Poem Analysis**

In “I do not love you,” by Pablo Neruda, the narrator talks about love and talks and about what Pablo likes about his wife. He first talks about the things that he does NOT like about her, which is an interesting way. Then, he writes many things that he likes about her.

I think the narrator is trying to say that love for him doesn’t mean judging the lady on the outside; he likes her inside much better. He doesn’t love her because one is beautiful like flowers. Pablo thinks that we shouldn’t judge someone on the outside; but judge them on the inside.

Using similes like “I do not love you as if you were salt-rose, or topaz.” Pablo was able to express the message he was trying to say. Salt-rose and topaz are both beautiful and bright, so what Pablo is really saying is that ‘I do not love you as you were beautiful or bright.’ Pablo also uses imageries like “so close that you hand on my chest is my hand, so close that your eyes close as I fall asleep.” It makes the readers have a tinge of emotion about the lines in the poem Pablo writes.

**‘Carnal Apple, Woman Filled, Burning Moon’ Analysis**

In “Carnal Apple, Woman Filled, Burning Moon” by Pablo Neruda, the narrator talks about love and the meaning of what’s love like. This poem talks about the accuracy of love and the symbols of what love stands for.

I think the narrator is trying to say about love is that love is slow and enjoyable. And, Pablo says that love is also very quick and fast. That’s what Pablo really wants to tell the readers this.

Using imagery and metaphors, Pablo wrote “Love is a journey through waters and stars… Love is a war of lightning.” He is painting an imagery of what’s love like. He is also using metaphors too because “…a journey through waters and stars” kind of means slow and enjoyable. When he writes that “love is a war of lightning”, it means that love is quick and fast because lightning is referred and compared to quick and speedy.

**If You Forget Me Analysis**

In “If You Forget Me” by Pablo Neruda, the narrator talks about Spain’s civil war and how he was in grave danger as he served his country very well. It also explains that Pablo was forced to exile from Chile, his homeland. He was given no option but to leave his homeland. Then he lastly talked about the return home to Chile and it’s the voice of the true forgiveness.

I think the narrator is trying to say that if they want him to leave, then he’ll just forget about them and leave instead. Pablo also love his homeland deeply and doesn’t want to leave but if they wanted him to leave, he’ll just forget about them and leave to go to somewhere else that’s new.

Using metaphors like “To leave me at the shore of the heart where I have roots”. This implies that Pablo is rooted at the shore. Also, Pablo uses the form of imagery a lot like “Little boats that sail towards those isles.” This shows the poet’s feelings towards his native land.

**Your Smile**

If I could wish for one thing,

Just one thing

I would take

Your smile.

Your never try to fake

Cause it takes more than a mile.

Your smile,

So bright;

So right.

Your smile,

I love it.

So great,

Your smile.

*-Wendy Chen*

**I Learned**

I learned a lot of stuff

With just a puff

I learned that life isn’t fair

Because it’s not suppose to be fair

I learned that luck always comes with payment

And that, I learned, is a true statement

I learned that nobody is perfect

Not even an object

I learned

More and more

Like the people of the Trojan War

I learned.

*-Wendy Chen*

**Tomorrow**

Tomorrow,

I wanna know

If this is the ending

We were expecting

From?

Cause tomorrow,

I want no more sorrow.

I have been wanting to tell you

That I really love you.

*-Wendy Chen*

**If You Remember Me**

I want you to know one thing.

You know how this is:

If I look

At the night sky; at the orange swing

Of the slow Spring days passing by at my door

If I touch

The sparkly candle;

The immense ashes of the light.

Everything carries my soul to you.

As if everything is alive.

But I know what the real world is like

In the gloomy darkness passing by my bike.

Well now, suddenly

If you remember me

I shall still love you; as I always do.

*-Inspired from Pablo Neruda. Poem By Wendy Chen*

**Tonight I Can Write The Happiest Lines Ever**

Tonight I can write the happiest lines ever.

Write, for instance, “The happiest people don’t have the best of everything, they just make the best of everything.”

The night wind is breezy, all singing in harmony.

Tonight I can write the happiest lines ever.

I loved him; and he loves me back more.

We hugged and put each other’s arms against each others’

We kissed endlessly, not knowing how many times, in the endless space

We see each other everyday

In the endless sky.

Tonight I can write the happiest lines ever.

This won’t be the last lines I would write to him

Thought it’s because I love him deeply in my heart

Tonight I can write the happiest lines ever.

*-Inspired from Pablo Neruda. Poem by Wendy Chen*

**Why I Choose To Include These Poems?**

Your Smile:

I picked to include this poem, “Your Smile” because I wanted to tell everyone how wonderful their smile truly is. I wanted to tell everyone that their smile (your smile) isn’t worth any price at all. I come to love people’s real, lovely smile.

I Learned:

I picked to write this poem, “I Learned” because I want my readers and everyone to know something important. I want them to know about our true life. This poem could teach people about the valuable things of our lives and how it really is in reality.

Tomorrow:

I pick to write this poem called “Tomorrow” because I wanted people to know that there is always something new in tomorrow. I want them to not give up hopes in tomorrow because it’s never expected what to happen tomorrow.

If You Remember Me:

I picked to include this poem, “If You Remember Me” (which is inspired by Pablo Neruda of “If You Forget Me”) because I want to write a poem that is really moving to people. This poem is about a loss and that if you remember me, then love will still exist between us.

Tonight I Can Write The Happiest Lines Ever

I chose to include this poem, “Tonight I Can Write The Happiest Lines” (which is inspired by Pablo Neruda of “Tonight I Can Write The Saddest Lines”) because I want a poem of something happy and sweet memories for people. Pablo made the poem very sad and unsatisfied like a sad love poem, but I want it to be happy with sweet memories. So I twisted the story/lines/poems around a little bit because happy mood is more of my type.

**Work Cited Page:**

Resources:

poemhunter.com/Pablo-Neurda/poems

en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pablo\_Neruda

http://www.biography.com/people/pablo-neruda