

Vasyl Stus

Fill in the blanks with one suitable word and read about one of the greatest contemporary Ukrainian poets.

Vasyl Stus was born not far from Kyiv but spent his childhood and youth in the Donbas Region. In this area of _____ (1), people speak mainly Russian, and it was a wonder that the young man could preserve his _____ (2) tongue. After graduating from the local Teacher Training College he worked as a teacher of the Ukrainian _____ (3) and literature. In 1963 he decided to continue his education and moved to Kyiv, where he started to _____ (4) literary theory. There he published his first collections of _____ (5) "The Circuit" ("Kruhovert"), "The Winter Trees", and the "Merry Cemetery". Both in his poetry and in his public speeches Vasyl protested _____ (6) the repressions of the Ukrainian intelligentsia. Though it was a _____ (7) of the so-called "political thaw" of 1961-1965, he was expelled _____ (8) his graduate programme. In 1972 Vasyl was arrested, charged with anti-Soviet propaganda and _____ (9) to 5 years in prison and 3 years of exile. There Vasyl continued _____ (10) and his prison poetry "A Candle in the Mirror" and "Palimpsests" is considered the heights of his creative _____ (11). In his poems Vasyl wrote about life and _____ (12), fate and destiny, individual choice and responsibility. In 1979 Vasyl Stus _____ (13) to Kyiv only to be imprisoned again for _____ (14) 10 years and 5 years of exile. But his undermined health could not _____ (15) the absence of freedom and he died in a camp for political _____ (16) in the Urals when he was only 49 years old. Like with many other outstanding writers the _____ (17) of this talented Ukrainian poet will outlive their creator.

poetry, language, death, prisoners, against, from, works, to write, mother, heritage, returned, study, another, Ukraine, stand, period, sentenced