

A biography of Pablo Neruda

Ricardo Eliécer Neftalí Reyes Basoalto (12 July 1904 – 23 September 1973), better _____ by



his **pen name** and, later, legal name **Pablo Neruda** was a **Chilean poet-diplomat** and politician who _____ the **Nobel Prize for Literature** in 1971. Neruda became known as a poet _____ he was 13 years old, and _____ in a variety of styles, including **surrealist** poems, historical epics, overtly political manifestos, a prose autobiography, and passionate love poems such _____ the ones in his collection *Twenty Love Poems and a Song of Despair* (1924).

Neruda occupied many diplomatic positions in various countries _____ his lifetime and served a term as a Senator for the **Chilean Communist Party**. When President **Gabriel González Videla** **outlawed communism** in Chile _____ 1948, a warrant was issued for Neruda's arrest. Friends hid him _____ months in the basement of a house in the port city of **Valparaíso**; Neruda _____ through a **mountain pass** near **Maihue Lake** into Argentina. Years _____, Neruda was a close advisor to Chile's **socialist** President **Salvador Allende**. When Neruda _____ to Chile after his Nobel Prize acceptance speech, Allende invited him to read at the **Estadio Nacional** before 70,000 people.¹



Neruda was hospitalized with cancer in September 1973, at the time of the **coup d'état** led by **Augusto Pinochet** that overthrew Allende's government, but returned home after a _____ days when he suspected a doctor of injecting



him with an unknown substance for the _____ of murdering him on Pinochet's orders. Neruda died in his house in Isla Negra on 23 September 1973, just hours _____ leaving the hospital. Although it was long reported that he _____ of heart failure, the Interior Ministry of the Chilean government issued a statement in 2015 acknowledging a Ministry document indicating the government's official position that "it was clearly possible and highly likely" that Neruda _____ killed as a result of "the intervention of third parties". However, an international forensic test conducted in

2013 rejected allegations that he was poisoned and concluded that he was suffering _____ prostate cancer. Pinochet, backed by elements of the armed forces, denied permission for Neruda's _____ to be made a public event, but thousands of grieving Chileans disobeyed the curfew and crowded the _____.

Neruda is often _____ the **national poet** of Chile, and his works _____ been popular and influential worldwide. The **Colombian** novelist **Gabriel García Márquez** once _____ him "the greatest poet of the 20th century in any language, and the critic **Harold Bloom** included Neruda as one of the writers central to the Western tradition in his book *The Western Canon*.

Complete Neruda's biography with an appropriate word from the box

after as called considered died during escaped few for from funeral
have in known later purpose returned streets was when won wrote

Write T (=True) or F (=False)

1. Pablo Neruda was not his real name. _____
2. He won a Nobel Prize _____
3. He was a liberal. _____
4. He was arrested _____
5. He supported Salvador Allende _____
6. Isla Negra was his last residence _____
7. It is not very clear how he died _____
8. He is best known for his poems _____