

## 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*