

William medicine and  
his own love for



**ASSIGN  
BUSTER**

William Carlos Williams was born in 1883, in New Jersey. He attends a medical school at the University of Pennsylvania, and then he returned to Rutherford, New Jersey, where he performed what he had learned. During this time, he was also publishing poems, novels, essays, and plays. The conflict Williams felt between his parents' hopes for him to succeed in medicine and his own love for poetry is mirrored in his poetic heroes of the time—John Keats and Walt Whitman.

Yet, by his first year at Pennsylvania, he had found two more mentors, Ezra Pound and H. D. and became a key player in American Modernist poetry. Randall Jarrell, an American poet, literary critic, essayist, novelist, children's author, criticized Williams's work, stating that it's "remarkable for its empathy, sympathy, its muscular and emotional identification with its subjects" and that "There is no optimistic blindness in Williams, though there is a fresh gaiety, a stubborn or invincible joyousness.

"Spring and All created a new kind of American poetry, giving a great attention towards natural, idiomatic language and depicting nature seen through the eyes of a sharp observer. In a sense, the words the author uses are like tiny scalpels, dissecting this landscape, looking for its secrets. He describes the nature using words that are in tone with his profession and with the final place that the path is heading— a "contagious hospital" (line 1). He uses the setting of this poem to contrast the grotesque habit of nature to shiver and die with its beautiful rebirth. The use of irony and clichés in the poem challenge the ordinary ideas.

Objects in the poem are described as “ cold,” “ stiff,” and “ stark,” making us feel like watching the author performing an operation. The setting of this poem creates a morbid scene; the plants are dead “ dried weeds, standing and fallen” (line 6), “ bushes and small trees/ with dead, brown leaves” (lines 11- 12) and the world as we know it transforms into a “ new world naked, / cold, uncertain of all” (lines 16- 17).