

Mihai Eminescu, Romania's national poet

And because all these Had to have a name, one name, they told them Eminescu . (Marin Sorescu - They had to have a name)

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Poet, dramatist, journalist, a specialist in Romanian folk poetry, Eminescu was a man of wide intellectual interests. He produced a vast body of work, but

He produced a vast body of work, but only published one volume of verse in his lifetime, under the title of Poezii (1883; "Poetry").





Romania's greatest romantic poet, Mihai Eminescu, was born at Ipotesti, Botosani. He attended elementary and secondary school in Cernãuti.

He travelled all over Romania, in 1867, when he was employed as an actor and prompter in Iorgu Caragiale's theatrical company.

He attended lectures on philosophy, history, law, political economy and philology at Vienna University. There be was among the founders of "Romania Juna", a society of the Romanian students. He made his literary debut in "Familia".

In 1872, the poet enrolled as a student at the University of Berlin; he wrote such famous poems: "Emperor and Proletarian", "Angel and Demon". Once back in Iasi, the poet became director of the Central Library. Towards the end of 1877, Eminescu went to Bucharest upon accepting Titu Maiorescu's invitation to work for "The Time" and publishes "Luceafarul", his masterpiece.





Eminescu's blue forests' lake, lpotesti

His poems span a large range of themes, from nature and love to history and social commentary. His carefree early years were evoked in his later poetry with deep nostalgia.



Eminovici's familly church, built arroud 1780-1800

Eminescu's poems has been translated in over 60 languages. His life, work and poetry are a strong influence especially in the Romanian culture as studying his poems is a requirement in Romanian public schools.

His most important poems are:

- **Doina** (the name is a traditional type of Romanian song)
- Lacul (The Lake)
- Luceafărul (Lucifer or The Morning star)
- Floare albastră (Blue Flower)
- **Dorința** (Desire)
- Sara pe deal (Evening on the Hill)
- **O, rămii** (Oh, Linger On)
- Epigonii (Epigones)
- Scrisori (Letters)
- Si dacă (And if...)
- Odă (în metru antic) (Ode (in Ancient Meter))
- Mai am un singur dor (I Have Yet One Desire)



SI DACA...

Si daca ramuri bat în geam Si se cutremur plopii, E ca în minte sa te am Si-ncet sa te apropii.

Si daca stele bat în lac Adâncu-i luminându-l, E ca durerea mea s-o-mpac Inseninându-mi gândul. Si daca norii desi se duc De iese-n luciu luna, E ca aminte sa-mi aduc De tine-ntotdeuna.

(1883, 13/15 noiembrie)

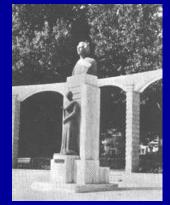
And If...

And if the branches tap my pane And the poplars whisper nightly, It is to make me dream again I hold you to me tightly.

And if the stars shine on the pond And light its sombre shoal, It is to quench my mind's despond And flood with peace my soul.

And if the clouds their tresses part And does the moon out blaze, It is but to remind my heart I long for you always. (Translated by Corneliu M. Popescu)

For the first time, in 1930, Sylvia Pankhurst and I. O. Stefanovici gave voice in English to the verse of our greatest poet, Mihai Eminescu. The volume was prefaced by two titans of the time: Nicolae Iorga and George Bernard Shaw.



Eminescu had only twenty years in which to fully accomplish his work, between 1864 and 1883, but in this short interval he deeply influenced Romanian consciousness, ardently promoting the ideals of social equity, of the preservation of our people's national unity, its independence and sovereignty, fighting for truth and beauty in life and in art.

Eminescu is an absolute creator, his individual culture standing within the European culture. Eminescu's work is the monumental expression of the genius of our people, a synthesis of our own soul through the praise of national historical values, the interest for folklore and country's nature.



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Edited by students from 8th grade:

Oana Tanase Maria Saulea Evelina Arabagiu Veronica Vasile Catalin Sarbu George Stamu

Assisted by:

Stela Anghel, Lucia Dumitru and Marinela Dincă, *COMENIUS Co-ordinator Project*

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