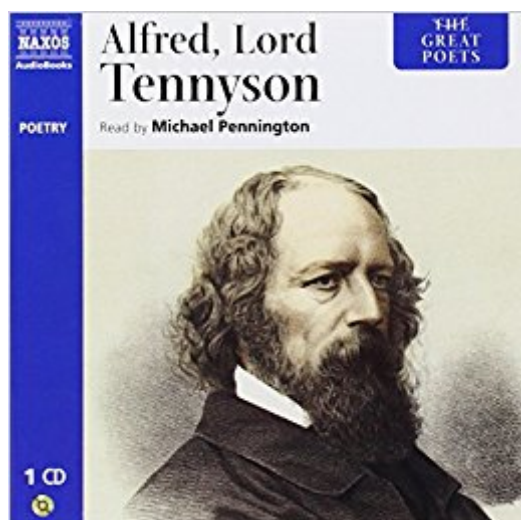


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# The Great Poets: Alfred, Lord Tennyson



## Synopsis

The 200th anniversary of the birth of Alfred, Lord Tennyson (1809-1892), one of the most popular of poets, is celebrated in 2009. Works such as *The Charge of the Light Brigade*, *Crossing the Bar* and *Tears, idle tears* have made him an internationally famous figure, and the second most quoted writer of all time (after Shakespeare). Tennyson's poetic works encompass a great range of styles, settings and personae, and are known for their emotional resonance and powerful imagery. Naxos AudioBooks's popular *The Great Poets* series marks the anniversary with a CD bringing together all the key works, read by veteran reader Michael Pennington.

## Book Information

Series: *The Great Poets*

Audio CD

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## Customer Reviews

Gr. 5-8. From the *Poetry for Young People* series, this effective, large-format book provides a highly illustrated introduction to the poems of Tennyson. Maynard's introduction gives a vivid picture of the poet: his childhood and youth, the pivotal relationships and events in his life, his particular skills as a poet, the background of his most famous works, and his unusually strong acclaim during his lifetime. The selections that follow are generally taken from longer works but stand on their own, particularly with a few lines from the editor setting the stage and a key on each page to words that might be unknown or unclear. The paintings that illustrate each poem are richly colored, imaginative, and impressionistic interpretations of the verse. Carolyn Phelan  
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Some of the finest Victorian poetry grew out of Tennyson's troubled personal life - he and all his eleven siblings suffered some kind of mental health problems, and his beloved friend Hallam died at 22. He succeeded in echoing deep emotions in simple words - 'But a for the touch of a vanish'd hand, / And the sound of a voice that is still!' - and in creating tremendous rhythmic narratives - 'Forward the Light Brigade! / Charge for the guns!' he said. The narration of the 24 poems here does Tennyson proud. - Rachel Redford, The Oldie There's no need to dip into the lesser works in a collection of Tennyson, and Naxos has made a fine selection here, mixing the best known (The Charge of the Light Brigade, The Lady of Shalott, Ulysses, The Lotus-Eaters) with others that will be less familiar to casual readers. One might quibble with some of Michael Pennington's line readings, but he has made thoughtful interpretations, and his voice is quite capable of meeting the musical demands of the poetry. There's nothing new here for Tennyson's fans, but the presentation is a strong introduction to a master's range of style and emotion. - D.M.H., AudioFile

Love the Poetry for Young People series. Nice illustrations. I like that they include a little blurb explaining what the poem means, as well as some vocabulary. Highly recommend.

Well read poetry in a clear distinguished voice

The colorful illustrations make our poetry more inviting and enjoyable. There are one page selections of very long poems and one or two sentences to explain the gist of the poem.

My mom gave me two of the books in this series (Emily Dickinson and Robert Frost) when I was little, and I love them. The illustrations are beautiful and there are explanatory notes for some words that may not be as familiar to children or modern readers. I recommend any of the books in the series.

This CD has helped me understand Tennyson's work and to develop lesson plans around it. Tennyson isn't easy for me to read so it was good to have something to read it with.

Poetry was magnificent in the classical age. They chanted it with music. And their metric was technically refined. However, also contemporary poetry, often in blank verse, may be stimulating, at least as a help to memory for whom he is a middle age man like me. Tennyson's biography tells that, with few exceptions, everybody is the faber of his (or her) destiny. He was a poor man not

able to complete his university studies in Cambridge and, thanks to his success, he became the poet laureate of Great Britain in 1850. It is natural for me to appreciate straight, intelligent and European persons. Of course, intelligence has no nationality. And I don't pretend to be above the average. This collection is read by the professional actor Pennington. There are three educational captions that I would like to comment. "I am a part of all I have met" (Ulysses, 1833). His Ulysses is not a jealous man, but a traveler who peacefully comes to his home. His search for knowledge made him make different experiences. Even when you are wrong according to health rationality memories of the experience remain. Also making mistakes one can behave naturally and be humanly sensitive sometimes. "Men may come and men may go. But I go on forever" (The brook, 1862). Genetics makes men make sons. If you don't have them, you can look at your relatives (inclusive fitness). You can try to produce works of art or literature in the search for eternity. At the end you can stay before a flowing river, appreciating the (possible) eternity of some natural things. This is the meaning of this personification of an atheist poet. "The white rose weeps" (of joy; Come into the garden, Maud, 1857). Since the roman de la rose this flower is symbol of straight carnality and spirituality in European literature. Roberto Fideli

Michael Pennington is a passionate Shakespearian with a long list of stage/screen credits to his name and it shows with this wonderful collection of poems. In my view every word is read with just the right amount of emotion and elegantly bring the poems to life. The tone of Michael Penningtons voice, to my mind, carries an undercurrent of melancholy reflecting Tennysons preoccupation with the beauty of nature, the sufferings and strivings of man and beast and the transient and uncertain nature of all our existencies. This CD is a must.

I have found no better way to introduce young people to these great poets than through this Poetry for Young People series. I highly recommend it! The poems are well chosen, and by reading through these books the children will easily be able to see a variety of writing styles. The full color pages help bring the poems to life, and keep even the youngest readers/listeners interested. Each book also includes a biography of the poet. These are just all around fun learning!

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