

- Philip Larkin was born in 1922 in Coventry, England, where his father was an important city official.

- Larkin's father was very bossy to him while he was growing up. His father was an admirer of Hitler. Larkin's father was hostile to women. Despite the fact the Philip Larkin rejected what his father stood for, his father's attitudes passed on to him, to some extent.

- His mother was too weak to defend him against his father.

- Larkin bitterly described his childhood as 'dull, pot-bound and slightly mad...'

- Larkin grew up self-conscious and shy and developed a stammer. Perhaps his confidence was affected by being tall and short-sighted as well as by his strict father.

- As an adult Larkin had a strong dislike of children.

- Larkin always wanted to be loved by women but he lacked the confidence to develop a relationship and marry. Although he had a number of affairs, Larkin feared marriage and family, and never married. 'Two can live as stupidly as one,' he said

- Despite his various affairs he basically became a loner. He developed a morose [gloomy] attitude to life.