The Whitsun Weddings was written by British poet Philip Larkin and first published in his collection The Whitsun Weddings in 1963. The poem recounts the speaker's train journey from the east of England to London and his observations along the way. At first the speaker focuses on the view out of the window of the countryside and passing towns. Soon, though, his journey is interrupted by the loud commotion of numerous wedding parties; a number of young couples have gotten married on that weekend (because of the long bank holiday weekend and a tax break). As the speaker observes:

"About the Poem The Whitsun Weddings was inspired by a train journey which the poet made from Hull to London in 1955 on Whitsun Saturday, a day which was popular for weddings at that time. The poem recounts the speaker's train journey from the east of England to London and his observations along the way. At first the speaker focuses on the view out of the window of the countryside and passing towns. Soon, though, his journey is interrupted by the loud commotion of numerous wedding parties; a number of young couples have gotten married on that weekend (because of the long bank holiday weekend and a tax break). As the speaker observes About the Poem The Whitsun Weddings was inspired by a train journey which the poet made from Hull to London in 1955 on Whitsun Saturday, a day which was popular for weddings at that time. The poem was finally completed in October 1958, following repeated redrafting. The Whitsun Weddings is Larkin's longest poem, narrated in a slow, unhurried, leisurely fashion which re-enacts a sense of the long, easy train journey from Hull to London. To view this video please enable JavaScript, and consider upgrading to a web browser that supports HTML5 video. The Whitsun Weddings Philip Larkin Lecture 29. Published by Shayne Peare Modified over 6 years ago. Embed. Three of his poems, including "The Whitsun Weddings," appear in The Nation's Favourite Poems (Carcanet, 2015) and was the revising editor of the Oxford Companion to Modern Poetry (2013), previously published as the Oxford Companion to Twentieth Century Poetry (1994), ed. Ian Hamilton.

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