

1842

BREAK, BREAK, BREAK

Alfred Tennyson

Tennyson, Alfred (Lord) (1809-1892) - English poet, appointed Poet Laureate in 1850. The most popular poet of the Victorian era, he remains one of the most frequently quoted English writers. Break, Break, Break (1842) - Inspired by the death of Tennyson's friend, Arthur Henry Hallam. It was composed "in a Lincolnshire lane at five o'clock in the morning between blossoming hedges." Opening lines: Break, break, break, / On thy cold gray stones, O Sea! ...

BREAK, BREAK, BREAK

BREAK, break, break,
On thy cold gray stones, O Sea!
And I would that my tongue could utter
The thoughts that arise in me.

O, well for the fisherman's boy,
That he shouts with his sister at play!
O, well for the sailor lad,
That he sings in his boat on the bay!

And the stately ships go on
To their haven under the hill;
But O for the touch of a vanish'd hand,
And the sound of a voice that is still!
Break, break, break,
At the foot of thy crags, O Sea!
But the tender grace of a day that is dead
Will never come back to me.

THE END