Joseph Brodsky (1940-1996)

--Joseph Brodsky is a Russian-born American poet, who won the Nobel Prize in literature in 1987.

--Born in Leningrad (now Saint Petersburg), Brodsky dropped out of high school but educated himself.

--In the early 1960s he became involved in Russian literary circles, but in 1964, he was charged with “social parasitism” and sentenced to five years in a labor camp. After serving 18 months, however, he was released.

--In 1972, Brodsky was exiled from the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.


--A major collection of Brodsky's poetry, Selected Poems, was published in English translation in 1973, followed by A Part of Speech in 1980.

--A volume of his essays, Less Than One, received the National Book Critics Circle Award in criticism for 1986.

--History of the Twentieth Century, a book of his poems, was published the same year.

--Brodsky's poetry collection To Urania appeared in 1988 and his prose volume Watermark was published in 1992.

--On Grief and Reason, a collection of essays, was published in 1995.
--Brodsky's poetic ability was widely recognized.

-- In 1981, while living in New York City and also teaching literature part of the year at Mount Holyoke College in South Hadley, Massachusetts, Brodsky was awarded a MacArthur Foundation grant.

--In 1987 he received the Nobel Prize in literature, the second youngest person to be so honored (French writer Albert Camus was younger when he won the prize).