

The Skunk Key Facts

Writer: Seamus Heaney | Generated: Jan 26, 2026

Key Facts

- **Poet:** Seamus Heaney (1939-2013)
- **Full Title:** The Skunk
- **First Published:** 1979 in Heaney's poetry collection *Field Work*
- **Form:** The poem has 6 quatrains (4-line stanzas)
- **Total Lines:** 24
- **Rhyme Scheme and Meter:** The poem is written in Free verse, meaning no strict meter or rhyme scheme.
- **Tone:** Romantic, nostalgic, and tender
- **Setting:** California (where Heaney was staying, away from his wife in Ireland)
- **Speaker:** The poet himself (Heaney)
- **Main Characters:** The poet and his wife (symbolically linked with the skunk)