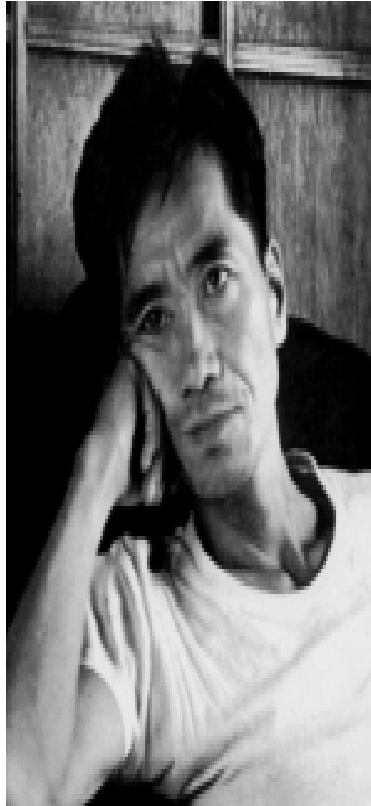


## Kim soo young

### **Early life**

Kim was born in Gwancheol-dong, Seoul on November 27, 1921. After graduating from the Sunrin Commercial High School, Kim departed for Japan to study at the Tokyo University of Commerce. He returned to Korea in 1943 to avoid the conscription of student soldiers in Japan. A year later, he moved to Jilin, Manchuria with his family and taught at the Jilin High School.



### **Family life**

Kim soo- young married Kim Hyun-kyung in 1950 and had two sons (Kim Woo / Kim Joon)  
Kim returned to Seoul to work as interpreter In 1945. In 1952 he worked as an interpreter for the director of the hospital in the Geojedo Island, and for the U.S 8th Army. Kim, who taught English at Sunrin Commercial High School later in life, began working for *Weekly Pacific* (Jugan taepyeongyang) and *Pyeonghwa* Newspaper after returning to Seoul in 1954. The following year, Kim retired from his work and began a poultry farming operation from his home.

### **Facts**

- =Kim soo-young was conscripted by the North Korean Army and became a prisoner of war. He was eventually released to the Geojedo Island Prisoner-of-War Camp in 1952
- =Kim soo-young received the first Poet's Association Award.
- =Kim's literary orientation became clear when he led other young Korean poets in "The Second Half," a group dedicated to redirecting Korean poetry away from the traditionalism and lyricism of the early 1950s by confront social concerns by using language in a new way.
- =Kim's significance and impact only really took place after his death. He only published one volume of poetry (in 1959). Shortly before his death, he wrote a theoretical article which sparked a lively debate.
- =The Kim Soo-young Contemporary Poetry Award is named in his honor.

### **End of life**

Kim soo-young died on June 16, 1968, after being struck by a bus while in Seoul.

## **Works**

Kim soo-young published a poetry collection entitled *Play of the Moon* (Dallarai Jangnan),  
Kim soo-young best-known poem is "**Grass**"

The grass lies down  
Waving in the east wind that drives the rain  
The grass lay down  
And finally cried.  
After crying the more because the day was gray  
It lay down again.

\*

The grass lies down  
Lies down faster than the wind  
Cries faster than the wind and  
Rises before the wind does.

\*

The day is gray and the grass lies down.  
To the ankles  
To the soles of the feet it lies down.  
Though it lies down later than the wind  
It rises before the wind  
Though it cries later than the wind  
It laughs before the wind does.  
The day is gray and the grassroots lie down.