

L'étranger – Charles Baudelaire

Fiche unique

FICHE VOCABULAIRE
Niveaux A2/B1

Vocabulaire

le mieux : *the best*

énigmatique : impénétrable, obscur, mystérieux

ni...ni : *neither...nor*

se servir : utiliser

une parole : *a word*

dont : *which*

le sens : *the meaning*

rester : *to stay*

jusqu'à : *until*

inconnu: *unknown*

une patrie: *a fatherland*

j'ignore : je ne sais pas

volontiers : avec plaisir (*willingly*)

déesse : *goddess*

or : *gold*

haïr : *to hate*

étranger: *foreigner/stranger/outsider*

un nuage: *a cloud*

Note culturelle

Charles Baudelaire (1821-1867)

One of the greatest French poets of the 19th century often called "the father of modern criticism," who shocked his contemporaries with his visions of lust and decay. With Stéphane Mallarmé and Paul Verlaine, he formed the so-called "Decadents". Baudelaire argued in *The Painter of Modern Life* in favour of artificiality, stating that vice is natural in that it is selfish, while virtue is artificial because we must restrain our natural impulses in order to be good. The snobbish aesthete, the dandy, was for Baudelaire the ultimate hero and the best proof of an absolutely purposeless existence: he is a gentleman who never becomes vulgar and always preserves the cool smile of the stoic.

Not only a poet of stunning imagery and extraordinary musicality, he was also one of the first to herald that new consciousness - urban, pushing at the edges of things. He rejected bourgeois values, used alcohol and drugs, had a close friendships with painters and other poets: all of these made him a sort of model for the poet as a 'bohemian' figure. He is the archetype of the poet as someone who lives his own life on the fringes of society, rebellious in life style, dedicated to moving so far beyond the middle class that his work shocks them. He died at the age of 56.