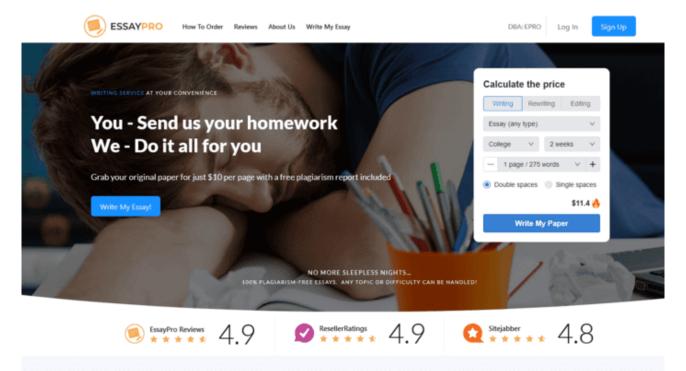
Samuel Beckett and Waiting for Godot



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Samuel Beckett and Waiting for Godot
As much as any body of writing this century, the works of Samuel Beckett reflect an unflinching,
even obsessive flirtation with universal void. His literary and dramatic accounts of skirmishes with
nothingness portray human beings (generally beings, at least, beings more or less human and intact)
situated in paradoxical, impossibly absurd circumstances.
Samuel Barclay Beckett was born in the comfortable <u>Dublin</u> suburb of Foxrock in 1906, on the 13th
either of April, which was Good Friday that year, or else of May-he and his birth certificate

always

disagreed on this point. He was the second son of a fairly prosperous, middle-class, Protestant couple:

his father was a contractor and his mother a <u>former</u> nurse. Beckett's education was conventional. When

he was thirteen, his parents sent him to boarding school at the Portora Royal in Enniskillen, Northern

Ireland. He studied classics, and was also quite successful at cricket, rugby, and swimming. In 1923, he

entered Trinity College, Dublin, where he read Modern Languages. He was honored for high scholastic

achievement upon receiving his BA degree in December 1927.

In 1928 he began a literary career as a professor and critic. He tutored French for two terms at

Campbell College, Belfast, and later that year he began a two-year exchange fellowship at the École

Normal Supérieure in Paris. While in Paris he met his <u>mentor</u>-to-be, James Joyce, and he began to write

and publish criticism and poetry. He returned to Dublin, where between 1930 and 1932 he took his MA

degree and lectured in French at Trinity College. For the next several years, he wrote and ...

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