

Preparation for seminar

Read Yeats's poem, "The Lake Isle of Innisfree."

Study "The Lake Isle of Innisfree."

Identify all the end rhymes. What is the rhyme scheme of the poem?

Count the number of stanzas.

Count the number of syllables in each line.

Characterize the style of language of the poem.

Identify the similes.

Identify the metaphors.

Identify some of the images.

Prepare answers to the following:

Briefly paraphrase the poem.

How does the style of language enhance the poem's meaning?

Why is the last line of each stanza shorter? What is the effect of this short line?

How does the use of figurative language (similes and metaphors) enhance the poem's meaning?

How do the line lengths and the use of rhyme enhance the poem's meaning?

There are two places identified in the poem: the place where the speaker is and the place where he (or she) wants to be. Can you characterize these two places? What do they represent? What reasons can we posit for the speaker's desire to go to the other place?

Perform a metrical scansion of the third stanza: identify all the stressed syllables, and identify all the slack syllables. Divide the syllables into feet. What interesting things do you notice about the scansion? Where are the places where an alternate scansion might be permissible?

You are very welcome to perform a metrical scansion of the two other stanzas.

(We will be learning how to perform a metrical scansion in class on January 24th.)

During seminar

Discuss the results of your study of Yeats's poem and your answers to the questions above.