



T50

The Lake Isle of Innisfree

This poem reflects Yeats's love of the Irish countryside. It was written in London in 1888, where the homesick poet saw a fountain in a shop window and, by association, began to remember the water of Lough Gill near Sligo, in Ireland.

William Butler Yeats
The Rose
(1893)

I will arise¹ and go now, and go to Innisfree,
And a small cabin build there, of clay² and wattles³ made:
Nine bean-rows⁴ will I have there, a hive⁵ for the honey-bee,
And live alone in the bee-loud glade⁶.

5 And I shall have some peace there, for peace comes dropping⁷ slow,
Dropping from the veils of the morning to where the cricket⁸ sings;
There midnight's all a glimmer⁹, and noon a purple glow¹⁰,
And evening full of the linnet's¹¹ wings.

I will arise and go now, for always night and day
10 I hear lake water lapping with low sounds by the shore¹²;
While I stand on the roadway, or on the pavements grey,
I hear it in the deep heart's core.

- 1 I will arise. Mi alzerò.
2 clay. Argilla.
3 wattles. Canne.
4 bean-rows. Filari di fagioli.
5 hive. Alveare.
6 in the bee-loud glade. Nella radura in cui risuona il ronzio delle api.
7 dropping. Cadendo.
8 cricket. Grillo.
9 glimmer. Debole luccichio.
10 purple glow. Bagliore purpureo.
11 linnet's. Del fanello (uccello piuttosto comune nelle zone ai margini dei boschi).
12 lapping ... by the shore. Lambire con suoni bassi la riva.

VISUAL ANALYSIS

1 READ the poem and write a caption to describe the content of each stanza.

- Stanza 1:
- Stanza 2:
- Stanza 3:

2 LOOK at the visual analysis of the text and write down what each highlight and colour represents.

- will
peace
.....

3 DISCUSS the following questions in pairs.

- 1 Focus on the use of punctuation. What kind of stanzas does Yeats use?
- 2 What atmosphere do the sounds create in the poem?
- 3 What contrast is presented in the poem?
- 4 How does Yeats use the language of the senses?
- 5 How would you define the tone and the language of the poem?
- 6 Have you ever felt homesick? What images and memories of your country do you think might help you overcome the feeling of loneliness in a foreign country?



➤ COMPETENCE: PRODUCING A WRITTEN TEXT ON A GIVEN SUBJECT

- 4** **WRITE** a 10/12-line paragraph to explain in what sense this poem can be regarded as 'Romantic'. What values connected with the Irish cultural renaissance does it promote?

COMPETENCE: CONTRASTING AUTHORS

- 5** **DISCUSS.** Compare the importance of the sense of place and of memory in Yeats's and Eugenio Montale's poetry. Among Montale's poems you may consider *La casa dei doganieri* e *Cigola la carrucola del pozzo*.