



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 **hive**⁵ for the honey-bee,
And live alone in the bee-loud glade⁶.
- 5 And I **shall** have some peace there, for **peace** comes **dropping**⁷ slow,
Dropping from the **veils** of the morning to where **the** cricket⁸ **sings**;
There **midnight's** all a **glimmer**⁹, and noon a **purple** glow¹⁰,
And evening full of the **linnet's**¹¹ **wings**.
- 10 I **will** arise and go now, for always night and day
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.

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- 
- 
- 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*.