



## Poetry Selections

This session's featured poet is William Butler Yeats. We've included two poetry selections for your kids and teens to read, listen to, memorize, and recite. They are:

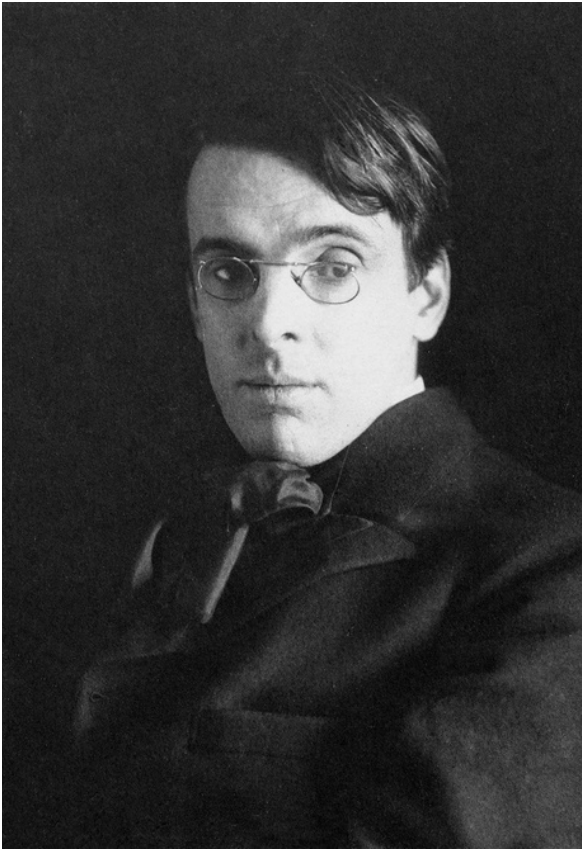
- The Lake Isle of Innisfree
- The Wild Swans at Coole

These two poems are also available as copywork. We have included Zaner-Bloser style handwriting sheets for primary, elementary, and cursive, as well as college ruled for older students.

*“Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire.”*

~ William Butler Yeats

Poetry Recitation & Copywork



# William Butler Yeats

June 13, 1865 - January 28, 1939

William Butler Yeats was an Irish poet and dramatist. His works often focused on themes of love, politics, nature and mythology. He also wrote a number of plays, short stories and essays, and was one of the leading figures in the Irish Literary Revival.

Yeats was born in Dublin, Ireland in 1865. His early life was spent in both London and Ireland. He attended a number of different schools while his family traveled, before studying English literature at the Metropolitan School of Art in Dublin (now the National College of Art and Design). He then went on to study poetry and philosophy at the universities of St Andrews and Oxford.

His literary career began with his first publication, a collection of poems titled 'Mosada: A Dramatic Poem,' in 1886. He quickly gained recognition for his lyrical works. As he developed as a writer, Yeats experimented with new forms of poetry, and increasingly drew inspiration from his own life and experiences, as well as poets such as Oscar Wilde, Percy Shelley, and William Blake.

Yeats is widely acclaimed for his contributions to poetry, and he was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1923. In his works, Yeats explored themes of mortality, history and mythology with a unique blend of symbolism and vivid imagery. He developed an obsession with Irish mysticism and legend, which greatly influenced his later work. His most famous poem, "The Wild Swans at Coole," was one of the earliest examples of Celtic Revival artistry that would come to define modern Irish literature.

His later career saw Yeates become a leader of the Irish literary revival, a movement which focused on celebrating and reviving Ireland's artistic heritage. He and his brother, Jack Butler Yeats, helped found the Abbey Theatre, which they used to promote Irish writers and plays. He was also heavily involved in the political movements for Irish independence from Britain and was even appointed as a Senator in 1922 by President Eamon de Valera.

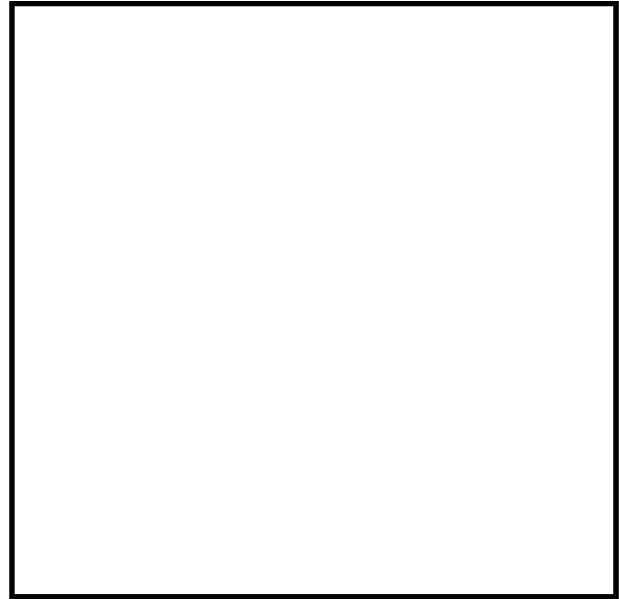
Yeats died in 1939 at his home outside Dublin, leaving behind a legacy that is still felt today. His influence can be seen in modern poetry and literature, as well as in the political realm. He remains an iconic figure of Irish culture and his works continue to inspire generations of readers.

# Poet Study

Poet: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Place of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_



**3 Facts About the Poet:**

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**Best Known Poems by the Poet:**

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# W. B. Yeats Selections

## The Lake Isle of Innisfree

I will arise and go now, and go to Innisfree,  
And a small cabin build there, of clay and wattles made:  
Nine bean-rows will I have there, a hive for the honey-bee;  
And live alone in the bee-loud glade.

And I shall have some peace there, for peace comes dropping slow,  
Dropping from the veils of the morning to where the cricket sings;  
There midnight's all a glimmer, and noon a purple glow,  
And evening full of the linnet's wings.

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

## The Wild Swans at Coole

The trees are in their autumn beauty,  
The woodland paths are dry,  
Under the October twilight the water  
Mirrors a still sky;  
Upon the brimming water among the stones  
Are nine-and-fifty swans.

The nineteenth autumn has come upon me  
Since I first made my count;  
I saw, before I had well finished,  
All suddenly mount  
And scatter wheeling in great broken rings  
Upon their clamorous wings.

I have looked upon those brilliant creatures,  
And now my heart is sore.  
All's changed since I, hearing at twilight,  
The first time on this shore,  
The bell-beat of their wings above my head,  
Trode with a lighter tread.

Unwearied still, lover by lover,  
They paddle in the cold  
Companionable streams or climb the air;  
Their hearts have not grown old;  
Passion or conquest, wander where they will,  
Attend upon them still.

But now they drift on the still water,  
Mysterious, beautiful;  
Among what rushes will they build,  
By what lake's edge or pool  
Delight men's eyes when I awake some day  
To find they have flown away?

# Poetry Study

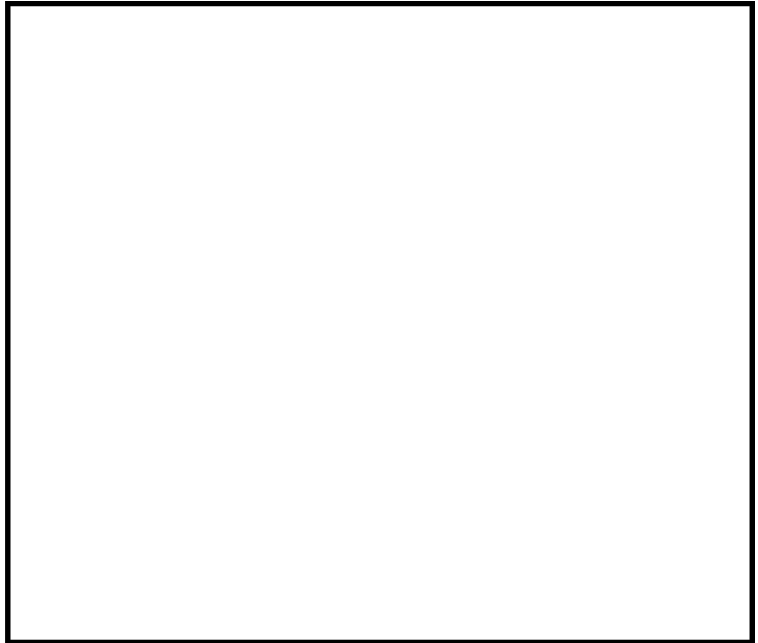
**Title:**

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**Type of Poem:**

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**Use the box to at right to draw a picture of what the poem brings to mind.**



**Write one thing you liked and did not like about the poem:**

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**Write three adjectives about the poem.**

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**Compose a few lines of your own poem inspired by this work**

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