*Easter, 1916*

**Explication Worksheet**

Instructions: In your journal, make an entry responding to the following:

Record examples of the following:

* rhyme scheme
* alliteration
* repeated words/phrases

Yeats humanizes these martyrs as common, everyday citizens: Record at least *five details of their everyday* *lives* that Yeats’ mentions.

*Why* do you suppose he grounds his description of these men in these everyday details?

Yeats uses *subjective detail* in this poem. Record at least *two examples*.

Record examples of the *visionary elements* of this poem. Where does this visionary aspect first appear? What vision does poet share with the martyrs?

What elements in this poem justify a comparison with “Second Coming?”

Explicate a “terrible beauty is born.” What is *“terrible”* about the “beauty” that “is born”? What does he find *“beautiful”* about this event? What does *“born”* refer to?

How might this “birth” be both an *objective and a subjective* phenomenon for Yeats? Explicate the significance of this “birth” for him as well as for Ireland. How does he partake in this birth?

Explicate the objective and subjective connotations of “all is changed, changed utterly.”

What, if any *change,* might this signify for Yeats? If this event transforms Yeats’ attitudes, what attitudes does it transform (“change utterly”)?

What is the *relationship between Yeats’ poem and the immortality of the martyrs?* Explicate the poem’s *social and political significance.*

What is the significance of the imagery associated with “that woman” (Lady Markowietz): “when young she rode to *harriers.*”

Who does the phrase, “this man had kept a school” refer to? What is significant about this fact?

How might this event have “changed utterly” Yeats’ conception of the *role of poetry in society?* What long-standing *conflict* does this event resolve in his Yeats?

Explicate “this other man I had dreamed a drunken vainglorious lout . . . he had done most bitter wrong to some who are dear my heart.” *Who* is being referred to? What is significant about the *before/after* impression of this person?

Explicate the phrase, “enchanted to a *stone/* to trouble the living stream.” Explicate the symbolic connotations of *“stone.”*

Record the images of change, the things that “minute by minute . . . change,” as a result of this event.

Explicate the significance of: “our part, to murmur name by name . . . . I write it all out in verse/ now and in time to be/ wherever green is worn.”

What words express a sense of consolation for the martyred?

What questions does he ask himself at this point?