*The Fisherman*

**Explication Worksheet**

**Rhetorical/Stylistic Analysis:**Find and record examples of the following in your journal (number and date the entry):

* Rhyme scheme:
* Alliteration:
* Sensory detail:
* Repeated words/phrases:
* Place names:

**Critical Reflection:**

1.Explicate the meaning of “*grey Connamara clothes.”*

2. What might the *fisherman symbolize*? Explicate the symbolic meaning of this figure.

3. Compare/contrast the meaning of *“grey”* in this poem with its connotations in *Innisfree* and *Stolen Child.*

4. Explicate the *visionary aspects* of this poem, with reference to specific lines.

5. How/where does this poem fulfill the *desire for the two-in-one?* What two things are being merged in this poem?

6. Explicate the meaning of the *trout,* comparing its appearance here with similar images in other poems?

7. Can you think of films, books that celebrate fly fishing? Fishing in general?

8. Explicate the symbolic meaning of “dawn.”

9. Record passages where Yeats is writing about poetry? Why does he feel such a strong sense of identity with the fisherman?

10. Explicate: “the living men that I hate.”

11. What does Yeats *contrast* in this poem? What is the central *tension* in the poem?

12. How might the central theme of this poem be about Yeasts’ vision for a new man, a new human child: what qualities define this new human? What flaws define his civilized counterpart?

13. How does this poem sustain Yeats’ *attack* on the false values and problematic effects of civilization? Cite specific lines.

14. Explicate: “Before I am old/ I shall have written him one/ poem maybe as cold/and as passionate as the dawn.”