*Lapus Lazuli*

**Explication Worksheet**

**Instructions:** In journal, date, number, and make an entry selectively responding to the following, by way of generating material for your midterm paper and preparing for our discussions:

Record examples of the following:

* *Repeated* words/phrases
* *Alliterations*

*Imagery:*

* what images does Yeats use in this poem?
* Do any of these images continue the pattern imagery from other poems

*Historical context:* what do you think might be the *historical context or backdrop* of this poem?

*Theme:*

* What is Yeats *defending* in this poem?
* What is he *critiquing?*
* What *examples from literature* does he cite in his defense?
* Summarize his *logic,* with references to specific lines. What *metaphor* is he using to make his argument?

Visionary Quality:

* How do *Lapus Lazuli* and *Second Coming* share an *apocalyptic vision*?
* Find words/phrases that evidence this apocalyptic vision.
* How does the apocalyptic vision of these two poems *alliterate with and/or differ from* the vision of the future in *Easter, 1916?*

*Explicate* the following lines, developing their meaning, connotations:

* “I have heard that hysterical women say/ they are sick of the . . . fiddle bow, of poets that are always gay.”
* “For everybody knows . . . beaten flat.”
* “gaiety transfiguring all that dread.”
* “Heaven blazing into the head.”
* “all things fall and are built again/ and those that build them again are gay.”
* “All the drop scenes drop at once/ upon a hundred thousand stages.”

What is Yeats’ vision of the *role of poetry in society*, as evidenced in this poem?

Theme:

* How does Yeats use an ancient work of art to make his argument?
* What might be the *symbolic* meaning of the *“musical instrument?”*
* What might be the *symbolic meaning* of the Chinamen *climbing* toward the “half-way house” on the snowy mountain?
* What might the *mountain and the sky symbolize?*

*Explicate*the meaning of the “mournful melodies” the Chinamen play of “accomplished fingers.”

*Explicate* the meaning of their “many wrinkles” and their “ancient glittering eyes.”

*Explicate* the meaning of the *poem’s title.*