*Leda and the Swan*

**Explication worksheet**

How does Yeats make effective use of myth in this poem?

* Research the myth of *Leda and the Swan*
* What is the curse associated with this myth?

What other classical works might this poem alliterate with?

Dramatic verbs: record examples of dramatic verbs:

Imagery:

* Record evidence of recurring images, image patterns;
* Record all images
* How is the swan of this poem similar to the swans of *Coole Park/* How different?
* How do these images reinforce the poem’s themes?
* Record all the images of the seduction/rape

Explicate: “A sudden blow: the great wings beating still”

Explicate: “a shudder in the loins engenders there/the broken wall, the burning roof and tower.”

* Explicate the possible meanings of “engenders”
* Explicate the possible meanings of “broken wall, the burning roof and tower.”

Explicate: “Agamemnon dead/Being so caught up?

* What is the significance of this line break? How does it reinforce the poem’s meaning?
* Why Agamemnon? What is the relevance?

What lines reinforce the visionary elements of this poem?

* Explicate the militant/political aspects of this vision.
* Explicate the erotic aspects of this vision
* Explicate: “mastered by the brute blood of the air/ did she put on his knowledge with his power”