*Sailing to Byzantium*

**Explication Worksheet**

**Instructions:** Number and date a journal entry in which you selectively recordresponses to the following:

*Repetition:* record examples of repeating words/phrases.

*Metaphor:* record an example of a metaphor. How does metaphor reinforce the poem’s theme?

*Contrast:* what is being contrasted in this poem. Record examples.

*Imagery:*

* record examples of Yeats’ imagery.
* Are any of these images part of a recurring image pattern in his poetry?
* Explicate the symbolic meaning of these images.

*Visionary Quality*: record lines that evidence the visionary elements of this poem.

* What is Yeats envisioning in this poem?
* Compare with what he envisions in *Second Coming, Lapuz Lazuli,* and *Easter 1916*
* Which of these four poems dramatize an *apocalyptic* vision and which a *redemptive* vision, and which a *combination* of the two?

*Explicate:* “This is no country for old men.” What modern author used this for the title of a novel.

*Explicate:* “Unless soul clap its hands and sing, and louder sing, for every tatter in its mortal dress.”

*Explicate* the symbolic meaning of the following:

* a “sage standing in God’s holy fire,”
* “the gold mosaic of a wall.”
* “Come from the holy fire and be the singing masters of my soul.”

Explicate the meaning of the *gyre.*

*Explicate* the following:

* “consume my heart away,”
* “gather me into the artifice of eternity.”
* “fastened to a dying animal.”

*Explicate:* “Once out of nature, I shall never take my bodily form from any natural thing.”

*Explicate:* “set upon a golden bough to sing.”

*Explicate* the meaning of the title. What might Byzantium symbolize?

*Theme:* What is the theme of this poem? Any thematic similarities to any of his other poems?

Devise a question for me.