*The Second Coming*

**Explication Worksheet**

**Instructions:** Number/ date/ and make a journal entry in which you selective respond to the following, by way of preparation for our discussion.

*Rhyme-scheme*: why do you suppose the poem in unrhymed?

Find and record examples of the following:

* Alliteration
* Repeated phrases
* Subjective details

*Imagery:*

* Record examples of Yeats’ imagery.
* Are there any images which continue the pattern of imagery in other poems?
* What fresh images does he use, and what do they signify? *Contrast:* How does the *bird imagery* in this poem contrast with its use in other poems?

*Visionary* aspect of poem*:*

* What lines evidence the visionary quality of this poem? What is being envisioned by the poet, and where?
* Record the *details* associated with this *vision* (at least four).

*Explicate:* “turning and turning in the widening gyre, the falcon cannot here the falconer.”

*Explicate:* “things fall apart, the center cannot hold/ mere anarchy is loosed upon the world.”

*Explicate:* “the ceremony of innocence is drowned.”

*Explicate:* “Twenty centuries of stony sleep/ were vexed to nuigthmare by a rocking cradle.”

*Explicate:* “Slouches toward Bethlehem to be born.” Explicate the verb “*slouches.”* Why “Bethlehem?

*Explicate/*develop the meaning of the *title?*

* What might have been the first coming?
* How is this “Coming” different from the fist coming?