*The Stolen Child*

**Explication Worksheet**

**In your reading response journal, record answers to the following;**

**Rhyming Pattern:**

* record the rhyming pattern for a verse;
* record the rhyming pattern for the entire poem;
* record examples of “line breaks” and discuss their significance, effectiveness, originality;

**Meter:**

* identify and record the meter;

**Metaphor:**

* record at least two examples of metaphors;
* develop the meaning or aptness of these metaphors relative to the themes of the poem;

**Imagery:**

* record at least two examples of Yeats’ use of imagery;
* are there any image patterns that lend unity to the poem, recurring images?
* Develop the meaning, significance, aptness of these images relative to the poem’s central themes;

**Symbolism:**

* Record examples of words that have a symbolic meaning; and discuss/assess their aptness relative to the poem’s themes;

**Myths:**

* Record examples of the poem’s mythic contents, and develop the significance of each relative to the poem’s themes;

**Place Names:**

* Record examples of place names, and discuss/assess their significance relative to the poem’s themes;

**Refrain:**

* Discuss the significance of the italicized refrain, relative to the poem’s themes and aesthetics; how does it function thematically and aesthetically?

**Themes/ Meaning**

* Record examples of words, phrases, or lines that underscore, reveal the poem’s central themes?
* What role is assigned to nature in the poem?
* What role is assigned to a mythic past in the poem?
* What is problematic about the present circumstances of the “human child?”
* How is this poem more than just a celebration of nature?
* What is the meaning of the title, *The Stolen Child?*
* What images are associated with the civilized world that is offered in counterpoint to the Edenic realm of nature?
* List the poems central themes.