

Wild Swans of Coole
Explication Worksheet

1. Record the rhyme scheme
2. Explicate significance of rhyme scheme: what is significant about the fact that the rhyme scheme moves from a mixture of rhymed and unrhymed to all rhymed?
3. Record at least two examples of the following:
 - Alliteration
 - Imagery
 - Sensory detail
 - Subjective detail
 - repetitions
4. Record an example of Yeats' use of *contrast*.
5. Develop the similarities between Coole Park, Innisfree, and Sleuth Wood.
6. Explicate the symbolic meaning of "autumn," "October" and "twilight."
7. Explicate the meaning of the "dry" pathway
8. Explicate the symbolic meaning of the swans , and Yeats use of contrast to develop this meaning.
9. Record an example of words/images that reinforce the theme of the "two-in-one," or the merger of two things.
10. List some of the poem's themes, with references to the text.
11. Explicate "trode with a lighter tread." The lightheartedness of youth vs the heavy burden of age. He bound to the ground of old age, while the swans yet fly, as his soul once did.
12. Explicate: "Unwearied still, lover by lover/ they paddle in the cold/ Companionable streams or climb the air/ their hearts have not grown old."
13. Explicate: "Passion or conquest, wander where they will/ attend upon them still."
14. Explicate: "among what rushes will they build/ by what lake's edge or pool/ delight men's eyes when I awake some day/ to find they have flown away?"