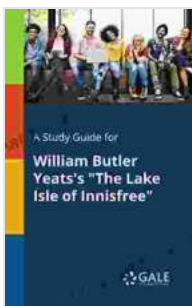


A Study Guide for William Butler Yeats' "The Lake Isle of Innisfree" Poetry

William Butler Yeats' "The Lake Isle of Innisfree" is a classic poem that has been beloved by readers for over a century. The poem's simple yet beautiful language and evocative imagery create a vivid picture of an idyllic island retreat. This study guide will provide a close reading of the poem, exploring its themes, symbols, and literary devices.

Theme

The central theme of "The Lake Isle of Innisfree" is the desire for escape and the search for a peaceful and fulfilling life. The speaker of the poem, weary of the hustle and bustle of city life, longs for a simple existence on a remote island. The island represents a place of peace, tranquility, and communion with nature.



A Study Guide for William Butler Yeats's "The Lake Isle of Innisfree" (Poetry for Students)

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language	: English
File size	: 587 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 18 pages



Symbols

Yeats uses several symbols in the poem to represent the speaker's longing for escape. The lake is a symbol of peace and tranquility. The island is a symbol of isolation and self-sufficiency. The nine bean-rows represent the simple and sustainable life that the speaker desires. The bee-loud glade represents the beauty and abundance of nature.

Literary Devices

Yeats uses a variety of literary devices in the poem to create a vivid and memorable image of the island. The use of enjambment, for example, creates a sense of flow and movement in the poem. The use of alliteration, such as "nine bean-rows" and "bee-loud glade," creates a sense of rhythm and musicality.

Close Reading

Let's take a closer look at the poem, stanza by stanza:

I will arise and go now, and go to Innisfree, And a small cabin build there, of clay and wattles made; Nine bean-rows will I have there, a hive for the honey-bee, And live alone in the bee-loud glade.

In the first stanza, the speaker announces his intention to leave the city and build a cabin on the island of Innisfree. He describes the simple life he will lead there, growing beans, keeping bees, and living in harmony with nature.

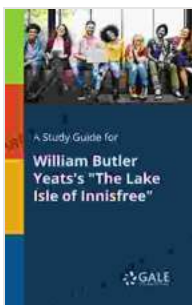
**And I shall have some peace there, for peace comes dropping slow,
Dropping from the veils of the morning to where the cricket sings;
There midnight's all a glimmer, and noon a purple glow, And evening full of the linnet's wings.**

In the second stanza, the speaker describes the peace and tranquility that he will find on the island. He uses imagery of the morning, noon, and evening to create a sense of the island's beauty and serenity.

I will arise and go now, for always night and day I hear lake water lapping with low sounds by the shore; While I stand on the roadway, or on the pavements gray, I hear it in the deep heart's core.

In the third stanza, the speaker repeats his intention to leave the city and go to Innisfree. He describes the sound of the lake water lapping at the shore, which he hears constantly in his heart. This sound represents the call of nature and the speaker's longing for escape.

"The Lake Isle of Innisfree" is a beautiful and evocative poem that explores the themes of escape, peace, and the search for a meaningful life. The poem's simple yet powerful language and vivid imagery create a lasting impression on the reader. This study guide has provided a close reading of the poem, exploring its themes, symbols, and literary devices.



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