

UNIT 3 What We Keep Poetry Connection

A STEM school

FROEBEL
BILINGUAL SCHOOL

Home of the Space Generation



THE SONG
OF
WANDERING AENGUS

WITH
JIM SOTO



SPEAK YOUR MIND

This.

Sucks.

Have any of these been... you? Did someone ever disappear from your life whom you would like to see again? Describe that person and what interested you about him or her.

Take a minute to answer in the notebook.





William Butler (W. B.) Yeats received the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1923. Recognized as one of the greatest poets of the twentieth century, he was also a major playwright. Born in Dublin, he grew up in London and County Sligo, Ireland, studying art before leaving school to pursue writing. As a young man, he became involved with the Irish nationalist movement for independence from Great Britain. Yeats believed that his poems and plays could help to foster national pride and unity in his troubled homeland. His poetry is rich with images from Irish folklore. Yeats's fascinating works reflect not only his passion and joy in life but a lifelong quest for wisdom.

AENGUS, GOD OF LOVE

In “The Song of Wandering Aengus”, as in many other poems, Yeats drew inspiration from the myths of the ancient Celts of Ireland. Aengus was the Celtic god of love, who spent much of his life wandering. Aengus fell in love with a fairy woman and spent his life fruitlessly trying to find her again. Yeats’s poem, which explores the subject of creativity, was written when he was still young, but it looks ahead to old age.





In 1889, Yeats fell in love with Maud Gonne, a beautiful, intelligent activist. Two years later, Yeats proposed to Gonne—the first of many marriage proposals to her. Even though they eventually married other individuals, Yeats continued his infatuation with Gonne, who was the inspiration for many of his poems. Look for the theme of **unrequited love** in “The Song of Wandering Aengus.”



LITERARY CONCEPT

Ballad

Is a simple narrative poem in four-line stanzas, usually meant to be sung. Folk ballads, which have been popular since the Middle Ages, are composed orally and passed by word of mouth.

Written literary ballads, in imitation of folk ballads, have also been popular. “The Song of Wandering Aengus” is a literary ballad. It is also a narrative poem, or a poem that tells a story.

ASSESSMENT

After reading the poem and Celtic myth in pgs. 252-255, of your book, complete these activities:

1. REFER TO TEXT &
2. REASON WITH TEXT
3. & ANALYZE LITERATURE
 - **Ballad** - What elements of a literary ballad are present in "The Song of Wandering Aengus"? How many lines are in each stanza? What story does this ballad tell? Which elements of the poem do you think could be representative of a folk tale?



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