

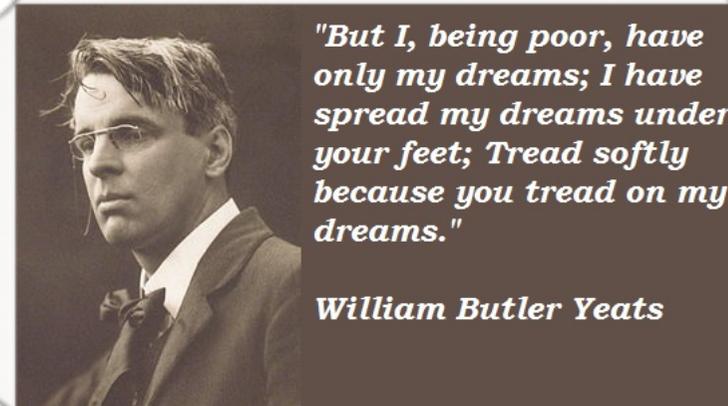
Weekly English Practice



18th June 2015

English Coaching Projects

weeklyenglishpractice.wordpress.com



William Butler Yeats

WB Yeats: The 20th Century's greatest poet?

His influence on today's writers may be as great as Shakespeare's. A century and a half after his birth, he still shapes the English language

Bar (n): Law

well-to-do (adj): prosperous, rich

verse (n): a poem or piece of poetry

to struggle (v): to contend with an adversary or opposing force, to find something difficult

to imbue (v): to inspire, as with feelings or opinions

occult (n): beyond the range of ordinary knowledge or understanding; mysterious

beloved (adj): greatly loved; dear to the heart

stamina (n): strength of physical constitution; power to endure disease and fatigue

overstate (v): exaggerate

William Butler Yeats (1865-1939) was born in Dublin on June 13, 1865. His father studied for the **bar**, practiced law briefly, and turned to art as his life-long profession. He took up residence in London as a painter, but never succeeded in making enough money to fully support his family. William's mother came from a **well-to-do** family in Sligo. William spent many childhood days at Sligo and loved the natural countryside

beauty. William was undoubtedly influenced by his father to pursue his artistic talents above all else, even family and economic concerns. William was a writer of **verse** since his teenage years. He lived, thought, and worked as a poet all his life. Unlike his father who **struggled** to establish himself as a professional painter, William succeeded in fame and fortune as a poet.

Yeats' early poems are **imbued** with images from the legends of Celtic mythology. The poetry of his middle years were influenced by his unrequited love for the revolutionary Maude Gonne and his involvement in the Irish Nationalist movement. The poems of his later years are more bleak and heavily influenced by the symbolism of the **occult**.

He founded Ireland's first national theatre in 1901 in Dublin, before Ireland even became an independent nation. He wrote several plays that were performed there. He became a senator of the Irish Free State in 1922 and he received the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1923. Yeats died in France in 1939. In 1948 his remains were moved to Drum-cliff, near his **beloved** Sligo.

Brendan Kennelly, in his introduction to The Penguin Book of Irish Verse, explains why Yeats ranks as one of the greatest poets of the 20th century:

'It is clear then that in nineteenth-century Ireland there was tremendous poetic energy. Yet there was something lacking: a

Something to chat about

- Name an influential Spanish poet
- Give a short description of their early life
- Summarise one of their poems.
- Do you like the poem? why/not.
- Read one of WB Yeats' poems (see links on p2)
- What is the poem about?

centralising force, a unifying spirit. W.B. Yeats, himself an important part of nineteenth-century poetry, was such a spirit. He had more solid stamina than Ferguson, more fierce intensity than Mangan. He had a vision for Ireland unequalled in her tradition, as well as the intelligence and energy to turn that vision into reality. Carrying his experience of the nineteenth century and its mythology in his heart and head, he stepped into twentieth-century Ireland, a great poet with a great poet's ideals. Never did a country so badly need a poet. Never did a poet work so tirelessly for his country.'

It's hard to overstate just how pivotal a figure in English literature William Butler Yeats was – and remains.

From the websites:

<http://www.bbc.com/culture/story/20150612-the-20th-centurys-greatest-poet> <http://www.rc.net/wcc/ireland/yeats.htm>



“iLook, iThink, iSpeak” Express yourself better!



William Butler Yeats Poems

Follow these links to read (and listen to) some of WB Yeats' most famous poems

When You Are Old *When you are old and grey and full of ...*

He Wishes For The Cloths Of Heaven *Had I the heavens' ...*

A Drinking Song *Wine comes in at the mouth And love comes in...*

A Crazy Girl *That crazy girl improvising her music. Her ...*

The Second Coming *Turning and turning in the widening ...*

A Coat *I made my song a coat Covered with embroideries Out ...*

The Lake Isle Of Innisfree *I will arise and go now, and go to...*

STARTING@19.03

See you **TOMORROW** at our **5th**
Anniversary **PARTY!!**



FRED TALKS speakers list

Pintxo-sized presentations of thought-provoking concepts

Friday 19th June @ 19:03

Co-ops: Past, Present & the Future

Fernando Blanco

Managing Director, Goros Estructuras Metálicas

Forming a cooperative is like getting married. After the joy of the wedding and the fun of the honeymoon, real life problems create stress. Do you have the guts to make it work?

The End of Language Learning - Rob Hextall

Technology has a habit of making seemingly stable jobs history. Will Artificial Intelligence make language teachers redundant?

The Rhythm - Kez Kurien

An explanation of how to learn the rhythm of English sentences, so that your English sounds more natural and comprehensible.

22 Facts About Russia - Alvaro Diez

Learn more about vodka, nuclear weapons, fresh water lakes, beards, calendars, distances and much, much more!

How living abroad changes you - Andoni Fernandez

Positive experiences from living and working in UK and Denmark

Ban the Boss!! - John Hird

Is it really acceptable in the 21st century to use the term 'boss'? Shouldn't we look for other words to describe work relationships in these more equalitarian times?

Keep Calm and Pog Mo Thoin - Darren Lynch

Don't confuse Irish with Irish (Hiberno) English! Are you confused now? Discover the languages of the Emerald Isle.

Are Lyrics Important? - Alison Keable

Are lyrics important when listening to a song? Singer-songwriter Alison Keable of Gasteiz band Similar Interests waxes lyrically ;-)

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