

Yeats demonstrated the power of poetry and the role of the poet to represent a new concern ~~of~~ his of his age and personal experience. In resolving his inherent contradictions in an equally ambivalent world, Yeats wrote introspective poetry expressing familiar truths of the centrality of love and tragic human experience, with universal significance not specific to generations. His use of open-ended symbols ~~and metaphors~~ as metaphors to captivate readers as he allows responders to co-create meaning relevant to their context. Time, change, mortality and love are all part of the human experience, which Yeats explores the contradictions and paradoxes of. However it is his representation of the intense human emotion of love that captivates readers, as seen in and throughout "The Wild Swans at Coole" and "Easter 1916", as he explores questions

and challenges this <sup>intense</sup> emotion we all can feel and can relate to in our own lives and contexts.

"The Wild Swans at Coole" was written when Yeats was depressed, having once again had his marriage proposal rejected by ~~the~~ his love Maude Gonne.

From my understanding of Yeats' personal context, I read his poetry as 'autobiographical' however through his use of multi-layered symbols, realise this is not all it offers, as his contemporary, T.S. Eliot believed,

"[Yeats] is a poet who out of intense personal experience expresses that is general."

The powerful use of symbol and confessional tone,

"I have looked upon those brilliant creatures <sup>swans</sup> and now my heart is sore"

represents this autobiographical reading about his lost love, abandonment and the intense feelings this brings. What's moving, I value



Yeats's ability to transcend the personal  
dramatising. It is this technique that proves  
his textual integrity as his works have  
lasted the test of time and continue to  
captivate and intrigue readers by focusing  
on such intense emotions of love.

Yeats's value in "The Wild Swans" "at least"  
as Yeats exploring the ~~time~~ change  
time's bring ~~and~~ which creates a sense of  
powerlessness linked to our own  
mortality. It is about accepting the inevitability  
of change and letting go of obsessive ideals and  
love. Yeats idealised the swans what the  
swans represented, "far similar to Celine,  
gave them characteristics he desired <sup>through</sup> <sup>personification</sup> <sup>and rhyme</sup>

"Unwearied still..."

Their hearts have not grown older,  
Passion or conquest wonder where they  
will," rather than accepting them for what  
they really were. It is this intense human  
emotion of love that intrigues readers

as I see this obsessive love as diminishing, as Yeats poured all his desires into one thing and was only alone. My reception of this poem is that to be truly free one must let go of obsessive ideals.

~~This obsessive love is~~

This is similar to "Easter 1916" as Yeats explores obsessive love through the sacrifice of martyrs and Irish independence. As Eagleton points out, "most of us realise that no reading is innocent or without presuppositions" where I have learnt that varying contexts will always influence response but it's Yeats' <sup>exploration of</sup> universal factors such as love that make his poetry significant in lasting the test of time, as it captivates responders whatever the context.

Whilst British officials would have focused on Yeats' potential and reputation

paradox, "a terrible beauty is born" and  
Dante would have noticed his ambivalent  
response in such rhetorical questions as,  
"What if excess of love"

Beckoned them till they die"  
and in the deliberately ambiguous  
symbol of the stone,

"enchanted to a stone,  
to trouble the living stream."

~~She would have~~ these responses illuminate  
Yeats' poetic treatment that captivates  
responders, no matter the context, as she  
would have been troubled by Yeats'  
refusal to wholeheartedly accept  
the idea of such martyrdom.

Removed by time and rationality  
from the immediacy of this political  
situation, I am still intrigued and  
admire Yeats' even-handed explanation  
of the nature and results of ~~the~~ fanaticism  
and self-sacrifice, an due to the rise



of terrorism and suicide bombing, I can relate to this intense emotion of obsessive love that lures people into committing such acts, ~~was~~ even in my context, generations after Yeats first wrote this. I see Yeats as using the metaphor of the stone to represent that alien this martyrdom will bring immortality, ~~as~~ where these people ~~have~~ will be gloriously remembered forever, they have lost the experience of true love and life. Yeats explores this obsessive love, that enchants people but also kills them, and questions them - captivating readers and challenging them to consider ~~the fact~~ this intense human emotion.

Given the polarised views towards such acts ~~in my~~ <sup>in my</sup> world, viewed on one hand as self-sacrifice and on the other as ~~the~~ mindless violence, I value the ~~role~~ resistant role of the artist, that



BOARD OF STUDIES  
requires us to

to explore

~~requires us to~~ consider all the paradoxes of  
such an emotive response.

Yeats's poetry is not prescriptive but intrigues  
an active readership. As an critic Terry  
Eagleton suggests,

"The literary text is not an object or an  
artefact but an event,"

where I value that responders bring a little of  
themselves to a text to co-create meaning.

Yeats continues to captivate readers <sup>across generations</sup> as  
his ~~open~~ open-ended symbols continue  
to accrue meaning, through time. Even in the

21<sup>st</sup> century he continues to intrigue  
readers as he created works of <sup>emotional</sup> <sup>beauty as well as</sup> emotional

intensity. Yeats's powerful poetic  
treatments provoke thought beyond his  
immediate experience, as he summons  
this to explore the hopes, fears, frailties  
and ideals of the intense emotions of love,  
common to all humans across contexts.