

Yeats Classroom activities

Explore the Yeats exhibition online in your classroom (www.nli.ie/yeats). Below you will find a list of Interactive areas that can be found in the Yeats online exhibition. Find the interactive area online and complete the accompanying activity in the classroom.

Your own Innisfree

Interactive Area: Verse and Vision

Activity: Listen to Yeats read his poem 'The Lake Isle of Innisfree'. Draw/make a model of your own Innisfree or write a poem about somewhere that is important to you.

Family tree

Interactive Area: Yeats and Family

Activity: In the exhibition you can see the Yeats family tree. Draw your own family trees – you may need to ask parents or grandparents for help. Discuss the types of sources available to people researching their family history.

Self-portraits/ 'When I am Old'

Interactive Area: Yeats and Family. Self portrait of John Butler Yeats

Activity: Find the self-portrait of Yeats' father, John, which he painted as an old man. Draw your own self-portrait **or** do a futuristic self-portrait of how you might look when you are old (this second activity would work well as a response to the poem 'When You are Old').

Your world

Interactive Area: Yeats, His worlds

Activity: In the exhibition, the 'Yeats – his worlds' installation shows a map of the world which highlights all the places which were important to Yeats. Make your own special map and mark in the places that are important and special to you, the emphasis being on self-expression rather than geography.

Ye Pleiades

Interactive Area: The Apprentice Poet

Activity: Yeats and his brother and sisters made their own family magazine called *Ye Pleiades*. Each of them contributed something that they were good at. Make a class magazine about Yeats, with every student adding something different.

Poetry aloud!

Interactive Area: A Person of the 90's

Activity: Yeats believed that poetry should always be read aloud or performed. The musician, Arnold Dolmetsch, designed a musical instrument for Yeats called the Psalter, to be played while poetry was recited. Try reading one of Yeats' poems aloud, paying lots of attention to onomatopoeic, or 'sound', words. Have a listen to Yeats again for some inspiration - you can find the recording of him reading 'The Lake Isle of Innisfree' on the Yeats online exhibition:

www.nli.ie/yeats

Masks and legends

Interactive Area: Written in Discouragement

Activity: Yeats drew great inspiration from the Japanese 'Noh' tradition and incorporated its use of dance and the wearing of masks in much of his plays. In the interactive area Written in Discouragement, you can see some of the masks which were used in Yeats Cuchulain plays. Make your own mask of a character from another Irish legend.

Making money

Interactive Area: The Public Man

Activity: WB Yeats was very involved in choosing the designs to go on the new Irish coins in 1922. Can you find them here? He chose images of animals which he thought represented Ireland. Imagine you have been asked to design new euro coins for Ireland. What symbols do they think represent Ireland today?

Prizegiving

Interactive Area: The Public Man

Activity: *Here you will find Yeats's Nobel Medal which he won in 1923. He was the first Irish person to win the Nobel Prize for Literature.* Design your own medal as a special award. Who would you give it to, and what for?

Birthday presents!

Interactive Area: Growing Old

Activity: Yeats received a beautiful lapis lazuli carving as a gift for his 70th birthday. Can you find the lapis lazuli carving and see the design on each side of the stone? Yeats wrote a famous poem about this sculpture. What was the best birthday present you ever

received? Can you draw a picture of the present or write a short poem about it?

Family jewels

Interactive Area: Last Years

Activity: George Yeats designed a beautiful ring for her husband which she gave to him as a gift. How many animals can you find on the ring? Design your own special ring or one for your family. What animals would you put on it?