

# The Lake Isle of Innisfree





## Introduction to the poem

This poem is a lyric. It is a musical poem. It explores the poet's longing for the peace and tranquility of Innisfree, a place where he spent a lot of time as a boy . Innisfree is the name of a place. It is a very quiet place and that is the reason the poet wants to go there. He had spent his childhood in this place. He has very sweet memories of that place, that is why he wanted to go back to the lake island of Innisfree.





# Poem and Explanation

## Stanza 1

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 honeybee,  
And live alone in the bee-loud glade.



ABC



# Poem and Explanation

**arise:** stand up

**cabin:** room

**wattles:** twisted sticks for making fences, walls

**glade:** clearing, open space

**Bee loud** refers to the sound made by the buzzing of the bees.





## Poem and Explanation

‘I’ here refer to the poet William Yeats. He says that he wants to go to Innisfree. Over there, he will build a small room for himself with clay and small sticks which are used to make the walls or the fences of the cabin. As he will need some food to eat also, so he will grow nine rows of beans near his room. Also, he will get the honey from the honey bee hive. He says that the open space, where he will build his room will be full of the buzzing sound of the bees and over there he will live all alone, in peace and tranquility.





# Poem and Explanation

## Stanza 2

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 evenings full of the linnet's wings.





## Poem and Explanation

**veils:** a piece of fine material worn by women to protect or hide the face

**cricket:** an insect related to the grasshoppers but with shorter legs.

**The male produces a characteristic musical chirping sound.**

**linnet:** a small brown and grey bird with a short beak

**glimmer** means something which is shining.





## Poem and Explanation

In this stanza the poet says that when in Innisfree, he will feel peaceful, and he says that the feeling of peace is felt slowly and gradually. He describes how he would feel peaceful. In the morning time, when it is cloudy, and the view is not very clear, then it will appear as if the morning has worn a veil and has hidden itself. Looking at this scene will make him feel peaceful.







## Poem and Explanation

Further he says that when the male cricket insect will sing a song, that sound will bring him at peace. Also, at midnight when he will see the twinkling stars in the open sky, their shine will give him peace. In the afternoon, when the sun light will give a purplish glow, it will also give him peace. During the evening, when he will see the linnet bird flying in the sky, then also he will feel peaceful.





# Poem and Explanation

## Stanza 3

I will arise and go now, for always night and day

I hear the lake water lapping with low sounds by the shore;

While I stand on the roadway, or on the pavements grey,

I hear it in the deep heart's core.





# Poem and Explanation

night and day: all the time

lapping: striking

heart's core: the innermost part of the heart





## Poem and Explanation

In this stanza the poet says that now he will stand up and go to Innisfree because all the time, the sound of the lake waters striking the shore repeats in his mind. This sound attracts him towards the lake. Wherever he is – either standing on the roadway or on the grey - coloured pavements, he hears the sound deep in the innermost part of his heart.





# Literary Devices in the poem

**1. Rhyme Scheme: abab**

**2. Alliteration: The repetition of a consonant sound in two or more closely placed words is called alliteration. The instances of alliteration in the poem are –**

**a. 'hive', 'honey bee' - 'h' sound is repeated;**

**b. 'lake', 'lapping', 'low' - 'l' sound is repeated**





## **Literary Devices in the poem**

**3.Repetition: 'I will arise and go now' is repeated in stanza 1 and 3**

**4.Personification: morning is personified**

**5.Metaphor: clouds are compared to veils**





## **The Lake Isle of Innisfree Summary**

The poet is reminded of his past, his boyhood, when he visited the peaceful Lake Isle of Innisfree. He wants to go there and says that he will live there all alone. He wants to build a small cabin with clay and wattles. He would grow beans and get a honeybee hive for honey to survive on.

The poet describes the peaceful natural surroundings of the lake. He says that the scene of the cloudy mornings, the shining stars, the glowing Sun and birds flying in the sky give him peace. He feels relaxed to hear the pleasant sound of the cricket's song.





## **The Lake Isle of Innisfree Summary**

The poet feels the urgency to go to the lake Isle of Innisfree. In the depth of his heart, he can hear the sound of the lake waters hitting the shore. It is as if the lake is calling him. He hears the sound everywhere – either on the crowded roads or the grey – coloured pavements of the city in which he lives. This indicates that he wants to escape from the artificial life of the city into the peaceful surroundings of nature.







# Thank You