**THE LAKE ISLE OF INNISFREE**  
**W.B. Yeats**

**INTRODUCTION**

William Butler Yeats longs to live in a peaceful and beautiful place. In his imagination comes the name of Innisfree where he spent a lot of time as a boy. He knows that a place of natural beauty and peace like Innisfree makes the human soul light. One enjoys life fully in the lap of nature.

 “The Lake Isle of Innisfree”, written by W.B. Yeats in 1888, is a twelve-line poem composed of three quatrains. It reveals the poet’s nostalgia for the peace and tranquillity he enjoyed on the Lake Isle during his childhood. This desire to lead a simple life on the quiet island also presents the poet’s dislike for humdrum of life in cities and towns. So deep are the emotions of the poet that he can, in his mind, hear the waves striking against the banks of the Lake.

**THEME**

The poem revolves around the idea that the idyllic life in the countryside with beautiful, peaceful and natural surroundings gives much more pleasure than life in cities with its noise and din, sound and fury. The poet who had, during his boyhood, spent his summers on the green and watery landscape of the Lake Isle of Innisfree, feels a deep longing to shun the city life and to settle down in the peaceful environment on the island. A simple life with only a few simple needs will be more delightful than the complicated and hectic life in the city.

**TITLE**

The title of the poem refers to the place the poet longs to go to. An actual place in County Sligo, Ireland, Innisfree has a deep fascination for the poet who visited this place time and again during his young days. The title makes us curious about the dreamy and picturesque place and we get anxious to know what the poet has to say about it.

The rhyme scheme followed in this poem is *ab ab.* There is a very strong end rhyme in the Poem. In the first stanza, `Innisfree’ rhymes with ‘honeybee’ and ‘made’ rhymes with ‘glade’. The same rhyming scheme is repeated in the other two stanzas.

**Poetic Devices**

1. **Alliteration**

***Example:***

* ‘A hive for the honeybee’ and ‘live alone in the bee-loud glade’.

We see the repetition of consonants with a similar sound in these lines.

1. **Assonance**

***Example:***

* I will arise and go now, and go to Innisfree.

And a small cabin builds there, of clay and wattles made:

The ‘a’ sound in the lines creates a musical effect. There are many examples of assonance throughout the poem.

1. **Imagery**

***Example:***

* Purple, hazy, full of birds.
* I hear lake water lapping with low sound by the shore.

He is actually not hearing the sound of lapping water

1. **Metaphor**

***Example:***

* ‘Veils of the morning’ means fog or news of the morning.
* ‘Deep hear’s core’ — the poet feels and dreams deeply.

**Value Points**

* The poet has the desire to spend some time in the Lake Isle of Innisfree.
* He wants to build a small cabin made of clay and fence and to pass his time there.
* He will have the opportunity to hear the songs of crickets there.
* He will enjoy the songs of flying linnet in the evening.
* He also wants to feel the waves of lake water striking the shore.
* His purpose is to spend some precious time in the lap of nature.
* The poet wants to enjoy the beauty and charm of Innisfree.

**Useful Expressions**

* ***… And live alone in the bee-loud glade —***The poet will live in the natural surrounding with the honey bees humming all around.
* ***… bee-loud glade* —**A green place where the honey bees hum over.
* ***… come dropping slow/Dropping from the veils of the morning*—**peace comes slowly from everywhere when morning sets in.
* ***… to where the cricket sings —***The cricket sings happily and greets the morning.
* **… *evenings full of the linnet’s wings*—**The linnets sitting in the tree flutter and fly, they create a pleasant sound.
* ***… lake water lapping with low sounds*—**The lake water striking the shore creates a pleasant murmuring sound.
* the veils of the morning

Here morning is personified as a woman whose face is covered by a veil. The fog, mist or dew drops in the morning atmosphere form the ‘veil’.

**Anaphora**

Anaphora is the repetition of an identical word or a group of words in successive verses. Poets often repeat single words or phrases, lines, and sometimes, even whole stanzas at intervals to create a musical effect; to emphasize a point; to draw the readers’ attention or to lend unity to a piece.

**Examples**:

* *And I shall have some peace there, for peace comes dropping slow*

*Dropping from the veils of the morning…*

* *And I shall have some peace there, for peace comes dropping slow*

*Dropping from the veils of the morning…*

Here the words ‘peace’ and ‘dropping’ are repeated. ‘Peace’ emphasizes the calmness and ‘dropping’ stresses the easy pace of things in nature which is in contrast to the rush and humdrum of city life.

* *I will arise and go now*
* The expression has been used twice in the poem, once in the first stanza and then again in the last stanza. The repetition, apart from giving a smooth flow to the poem, brings out the poet’s decisiveness. He is clear in his mind that he would definitely get up and leave for Innisfree.
* **RHYME SCHEME**
* The poem consists of 12 lines, separated into 3 quatrains, and an abab cdcd efef rhyme scheme. Another way to arrange the rhyme can be abab for each stanza.