OTHER POEMS

‘The great wings beating still’
Link to Easter 1916: ‘A terrible beauty is born,’ the juxtaposition of beauty and violence we see in both poems, ‘born’ with creation comes destruction

‘The broken wall, the burning roof and tower And Agamemnon dead’
Link to The Second Coming: ‘The ceremony of innocence is drowned’ the loss and corruption of child-like innocence in both
Link to Among School Children: ‘Changed some childish day to tragedy’ loss of child like innocence by rape

‘So mastered by the brute blood of the air’
Link to The Second Coming: ‘The blood dimmed tide is loosed’ violence is ubiquitous, with destruction comes blood and pain, violence is part of human nature

‘The feathered glory from her loosening thighs?’
Link to An Irish Airman: ‘A lonely impulse of delight’ he rapes Leda for a brief moment of pleasure, similar to how Robert Gregory flies before death for that short moment of pleasure
Link to Sailing to Byzantium: ‘Consume my heart away; sick with desire’ All consuming desire/lust which can lead to terrible things, on Byzantium Yeats said ‘I am trying to write about the state of my soul,’ in both poems there is an insight into the inner desires one may have, the darkness of the soul

The Wild Swans at Coole

FORM AND STRUCTURE
- Iambic Pentameter
- Written in regular stanza form
- ABCBDD Rhyme Scheme
- Enjambment and undulating lines convey the ripples in the water
- Melancholic tone – sombre but serenic

CONTEXT
- Coole Park was Lady Gregory’s stately home
- Written in 1915 when Yeats turned 50, the poem is an elegy for lost youth
- He visited Coole Park nineteen years before in 1896
- Wild swans are a symbol of the timeless, eternal beauty of the aristocratic way of life threatened by the post war world
- Yeats was influenced by the symbolist moment and said this poem was to ‘prolong the moment of contemplation’
### OTHER POEMS

‘Their hearts have not grown old; Passion or conquest, wander where they will’

Link to **Leda and the Swan**: ‘Before the indifferent beak could let her drop?’ Birds represent freedom, they are free to do as they please, but swans are also creatures of violence

Link to **The Fisherman**: 'Write a poem as cold and passionate as the dawn' dawn in contrast to twilight, dawn symbolises the beginning and twilight represents his life coming to a close

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### The Second Coming

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| - ‘Things fall apart; the centre cannot hold;’ the caesura reflects meaning, idea of things fragmenting and splitting  
| - Demarcation between ideas in first and second stanza  
| - Loose meter of poem, very close to free verse, written in iambic pentameter |

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| - Written 1919  
| - Title is from the book of revelation, prophecy: at end of world terrible things will happen, in these will come  
| - Yeats married wife who believed she was a spiritual medium, used to write down what spirits would tell her, they would discuss these prophetic ideas that came to her in her trance like states  
| - Poem relies on vagueness of Christian memory, you can interpret through a biblical or Christian approach  
| - 1930s people saw it as a prophecy about fascism + Hitler was the ‘rough beast’ + out of this would come a new episode of history (WW2 started around 1939) |

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