

Among School Children

FORM AND STRUCTURE	- Ottava Rima = type of structure/verse used for reflective poetry - Rhythm of Yeats' Irish accent is apparent in his writing - A rhythm and sensuality to the last verse - Use of 'child' in each verse - Verses are numbered, idea of structuring and organising of experiences, similar to children counting + classical references in verses to teachers: Plato, Aristotle, a development of knowledge		
CONTEXT	- 1926 Yeats as a school inspector visited a school in Waterford, taught by nuns - Yeats was conflicted as to whether Catholicism should be imposed on the children or not - The children are learning biased history, influenced by Catholicism - Second verse is reference to Maud Gonne, she was his inspiration		
THEMES	<u>Knowledge & Religion</u>	<u>Love – Maud & Beauty</u>	<u>Ageing & Change</u>
QUOTES AND ANALYSIS	'There is a comfortable kind of old scarecrow' - Scarecrows are there to manipulate, affecting the crops of learning, the seeds in the field are the knowledge that is being manipulated by the nuns 'Soldier Aristotle played the taws' - Idea of severity, corporal punishment, you will be punished for your learning 'Both nuns and mothers worship images, But those candles light are not as those' - Nun's = virgins, they sacrifice	'Or else, to alter Plato's parable, Into the yolk and white of the one shell' - Plato's symposium, myth of the egg which the serpent separated, creating Earth and Sky 'So saying, he cut those human beings in two, the way people cut sorb apples before they dry them or the way they cut eggs with hairs.' Earth and sky comes together as he and Maud did 'Told, and it seemed that our two natures blent (next line) Into a sphere, from youthful sympathy' - Enjambment, structure of the line reflects idea of coming together 'And that must sleep, shriek, struggle to escape As recollection or the drug decide,'	'Above a sinking fire, a tale that she Told of a harsh reproof or trivial event' - 'Sinking fire' metaphor about ageing, Yeats' dissatisfaction with growing old - Thinking back to when he and Maud were in their youth 'There is a comfortable kind of old scarecrow' - Idea that age renders you immobile - Scarecrow is hollowed out to scare birds, birds symbolise freedom, teaching the children not to fear age, if they do not fear, they will