

In Memory of Eva Gore-Booth and Con Markievicz

FORM AND STRUCTURE	- It's an epitaph (short text honouring a deceased person) - Mirrors the structure of a Petrarchen Sonnet, but the poem is longer - End of stanza one: almost a cyclical structure, starts with youth, then reaches maturity, then reflects on youth		
CONTEXT	- Written 1927 after both women had died (sisters) - Eva lived 1870-1926 - Con lived 1868-1927 - Constance was first woman to get elected in parliament: Yeats was fascinated by women who broke conventions, a patriarchal attitude to women + women who break the mould - Lissadell was a neo-classical Georgian house, he met the girls there in 1894, he was attracted to the gracious living of the gentry - Yeats thought the family had neglected its aristocratic duty to work with the peasants, he goes back to confine the women in the house in the poem, the Victorian idea of the idealised family affects Yeats		
THEMES	<u>Beauty/Age</u>	<u>Politics</u>	<u>Aristocracy/Wealth</u>
QUOTES AND ANALYSIS	'Beautiful, one a gazelle' - 'Gazelle' metaphor for elegance of Eva 'But a raving autumn shears Blossom from the summer's wreath.' - Shows how they have been stripped of their beauty - Blossom also represents the fertility of women and blossom of idealism, juxtaposed with 'wreath' which represents death 'Dear shadows, now you know it all' - Shadows = connotation of death/ghosts, reference to the afterlife - Ambiguity of shadows suggests that the nature of	'The older is condemned to learn. I know not what the younger dreams – some vague Utopia – and she seems, When with withered skeleton-gaunt, An image of such politics.' - Yeats referring to Con's participation in the Easter rising 1916 - Adds to the irrelevance of her ways by calling them 'younger dreams' suggesting she was young and foolish - He thinks she dreamed of 'Utopia' = unachievable state - 'Skeleton-gaunt' suggests politics tainted her, fervour can corrupt beauty 'Arise and bid me strike a match And strike another till time catch;' - Extended metaphor - Striking a match is a resistance almost to the darkness around you, to the corruption of politics etc - Reference to the ideas which strike you when your imagination lights up	'The light of evening, Lissadell' - Starts with a house, house was a symbol of the old aristocracy 'Two girls in silk kimonos, both Beautiful, one a gazelle' - Yeats relates the sisters to Asian/African themes to show how they do not 'fit in' to their aristocratic lives: 'silk kimonos' and 'one a gazelle' illustrate this point - Silk reflects their wealth