

The Poetry of W.B. Yeats

An Irish Airman foresees his death

Before Reading	Retrieval Practice Vocabulary
Reading	Three Readings Personal Response
After Reading	Annotation Teacher Mark up Links to other Yeats Poems Mood after reading Notes Retrieval



Before-teaching: Challenging Vocab

Definition:	Picture:
Tumult	
Synonyms:	Sentence:

Definition:	Picture:
Fate	
Synonyms:	Sentence:

Definition:	Picture:
Duty	
Synonyms:	Sentence:

Definition:	Picture:
Futility	
Synonyms:	Sentence:

An Irish Airman foresees his death by W.B. Yeats

Poem Readings

[Adrian Dunbar recites W.B. Yeats' An Irish Airman Foresees His Death – YouTube](#)

[Shane MacGowan - An Irish Airman Forsees His Death \(Yeats\) – YouTube](#)

[WB Yeats - An Irish Airman Foresees His Death - YouTube](#)

I know that I shall meet my fate
Somewhere among the clouds above;
Those that I fight I do not hate
Those that I guard I do not love;
My country is Kiltartan Cross,
My countrymen Kiltartan's poor,
No likely end could bring them loss
Or leave them happier than before.
Nor law, nor duty bade me fight,
Nor public man, nor cheering crowds,
A lonely impulse of delight
Drove to this tumult in the clouds;
I balanced all, brought all to mind,
The years to come seemed waste of breath,
A waste of breath the years behind
In balance with this life, this death

Personal Response

How were you left feeling after reading the poem? What were you left thinking about?

Complete this personal response grid by jotting down your own initial thoughts and ideas about the poem. Then, share your thoughts and ideas with your pair or small group.

Something you liked or disliked	Something you were intrigued by	Something you didn't understand
Mood you felt after reading	Something you were reminded from another poem	An image you liked
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**An Irish Airman foresees his
death by W.B. Yeats**

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An Irish Airman Foresees his Death- W.B. Yeats

Speaker: Male, One voice,
First person

Structure:
Elegy, 16 line stanza , 4 rhyming
quatrains, iambic pentameter,
enjambment

Shies away from directly saying he is
going to die

Metaphor

Forceful emphasising his point

Repetition

Harsh consonants mirror harsh
reality of life for poor in Ireland

Consonance

Patriotism

Symbolism

A break in the pilots clear
reasons for joining the war

Enjambment

Alliteration

Adds to the steady
rhythm- shows clear
decision pilot has
made

Assonance- Everywhere

Rhythm:
Iambic Pentameter
Repetition

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The fighter pilot believes he will
probably die
The pilot is not patriotic
The pilot is a poor Irishman
The war is not going to benefit Irish
people
The pilot was not inspired to fight
by politicians speeches
The pilot was not inspired to fight
by a patriotic cheering crowd
The pilot was inspired to fight for
the sheer thrill of it
The pilot thinks that there is
nothing worth much in his life
The pilot thinks that dying in war
will be worth it to experience the
thrill of it

Rhyme: 4 rhyming
quatrains
ABAB
CDCD
EFEF
GHGH

Tone:, gloomy, pessimistic,

Writing to Analyse

Write a short paragraph using an analytical verb to discuss the big ideas of the poem

Yeats may have written the poem to criticise.....

Yeats may have written the poem to warn.....

Yeats may have written the poem to reveal the importance of.....

What mood is the reader left in after reading the poem?

Outrage	Sympathy	Pity	Critical
Approval	Satisfaction	Empathy	Anger
Anxiety	Disappointed	Thrilled	Uncomfortable
Negative	Unpleasant	Concern	Horrificed
Respect	Admiration	Guilt	Irritation
Shocked	Distressed	Disgusted	Challenged
Justice	Injustice	Celebratory	Worried

Linking to other texts

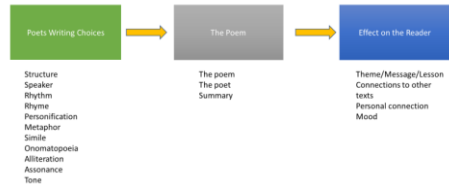
Does anything about this poem remind you of any other Yeats poem you have studied?

Irish Airman

Techniques used	Themes and Issues	Tone or Mood	Story or action of the poem
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When you have finished thinking and jotting down your ideas, turn to the person next to you or to a small group and discuss what you have found.

How to Create Poetry Notes



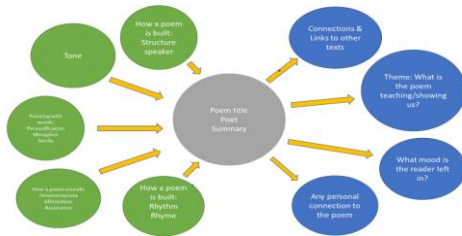
1. Purpose

- Why are you making the notes?
- Poets writing choices impact the poem which in turn impact the reader



2. Summarise

- Cut the information down to only the most essential bits- key words, key quotes, key techniques



3. Organise

- Organise your notes with your purpose in mind
- Poets writing choices impact the poem which in turn impact the reader



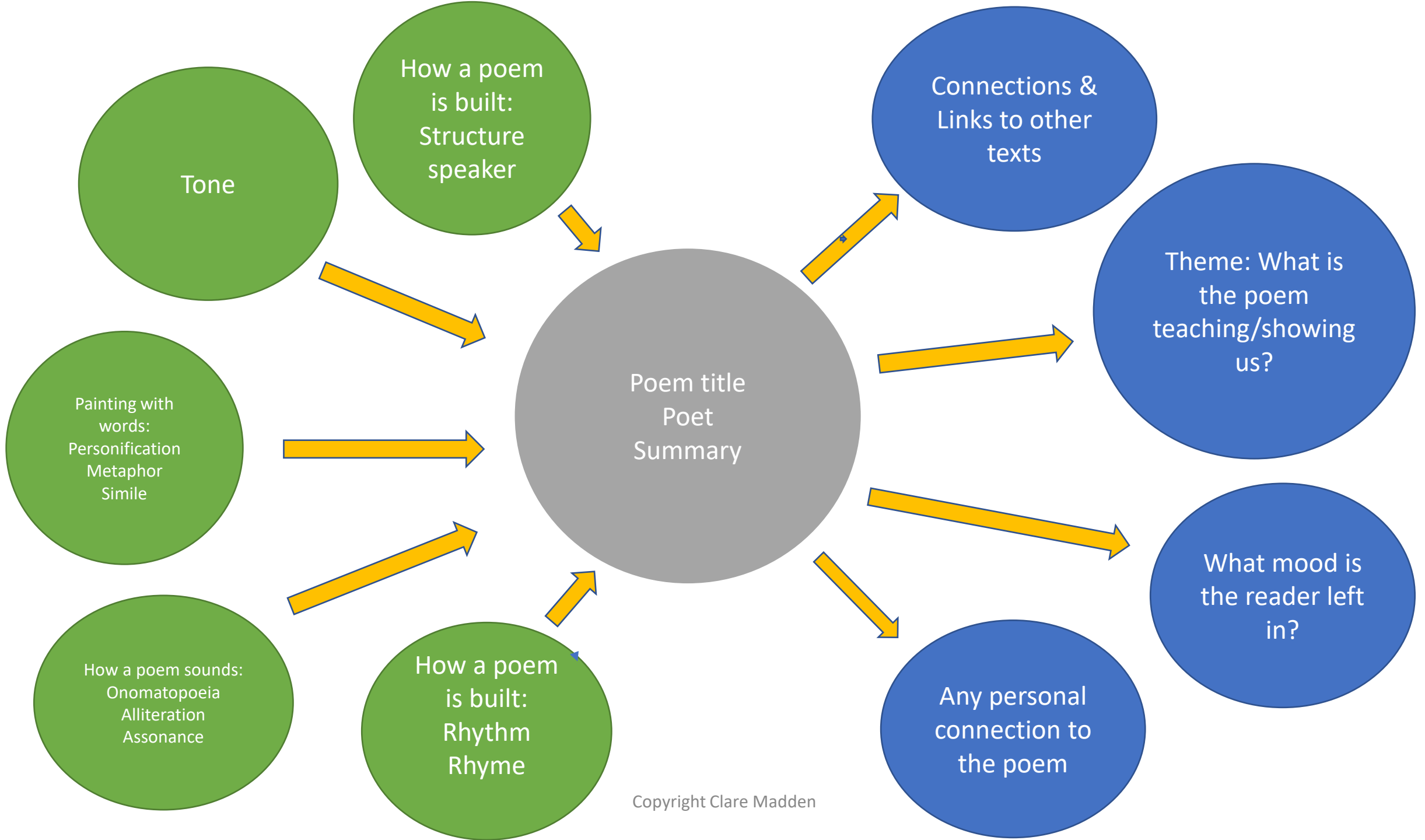
4. Layout

- Use a grid in the background to help with layout
- Use pencil for initial layout



5. Create

- Use marker and colour
- Use bullets, banners, connectors, containers and fonts
- Use the noun project.com or flaticons.com to help with images or create your own



Retrieval Practice



Brain Dump: Write down everything you know about this poem