



## Question 7b - Poetry

Ultimately, In this poetry, it is the representation of intense human emotions that ~~captivates~~ captivates readers is a true statement in the reflection of the poetry by William ~~Butler~~ ~~Butler~~ Yeats. Yeats' poetry can be seen as representations of many intense human emotions such as love, patriotism, conflict, envy, anger and these emotions are represented strongly in each of his poems. One intense human emotion that Yeats uses in many of his later poems is the dichotomy of youth and old age, how humans grow old but wish to stay young. Nowhere is this more clearly seen than in the poems Sailing to Byzantium and Wild Swans at Coole.

Sailing to Byzantium clearly depicts the dichotomy of youth and old age by the man ~~being~~ ~~being~~ trapped between 2 worlds; the present world and the world transcended to the ancient city of Byzantium. This city is said to be the great classical of the East and



West cultures and full of 'monuments of undying intellect' reinforcing the immortality of the city.

This emotion is significant in this poem as Yeats ridicules age, 'Age is but a paltry thing ... tattered coat upon a stick' but is ironically ridiculing himself. He wishes to escape the present world of youth with 'lover's in one another's arms' to the immortal city with '~~monuments~~ monuments of undying intellect'.

■ Sailing to Byzantium can be seen as an interpretation past, present and future, 'Of what is past, or passing, or to come' as it reflects the dichotomy of youth and age by reinforcing his wish to transcend from the present to the world of Byzantium into the future.

Denis Donoghue read Sailing to Byzantium differently based on the principle that Yeats didn't feel comfortable in Soul so he dragged his Self even into Byzantium reinforcing how even though he is old, he still didn't want to leave his body behind.



Wild Swans at Coole is about the swans at Coole in the Galway Area of Ireland where Yeats used to visit Major and Lady Gregory. It had been 19 years since his last visit and he found that the swans had remained the same.

The dichotomy between youth and age is very significant in this poem because as Yeats has gotten older, the swans have remained the same, ever young and ever immortal.

The swans are a symbol of immortality and reflect upon the dichotomy as they stay forever young and beautiful whilst humans grow old and frail, because ~~we~~ we are mortal.

Wild Swans at Coole can be seen as a reflection of past, present and future, "The nineteenth autumn past, remained still" which reflects upon the dichotomy as Yeats grows old, swans stay young.

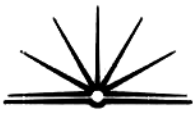
This dichotomy of youth ~~and~~ and age also reflects upon Yeats himself as a poet and the

context of what was happening around him at the time. Yeats grew up in an age of conflict such as Irish Uprising, Civil War/Troubles which lead to their independence, <sup>WWI</sup> Russian Revolution, Great Depression and even when he died in 1939 was the outbreak of World War II. This can be reflected upon his as he was a poet reflected by Romanticism but was also involved in the Nationalist Movement but never fought.

This dichotomy of his context and himself can be reflected upon the dichotomy of youth and age ~~is~~ because as being mortal humans, if there is one thing we know for certain ~~is~~ that is going to happen in our lives it is that we are all going to die sometime, and this dichotomy is very significant in many of Yeats poetry as we can reflect and relate to it substantially.

So in conclusion, the representation of intense human emotions that captivates readers





in accordance to Yeats' poetry is very true as being human we can respond and relate to many of emotions ourselves for example love, anger, disappointment, patriotism, conflict, sadness etc. The one intense human that is very significant in Yeats' poetry especially Sailing to Byzantium and Wild Swans at Coole ~~is~~ is the dichotomy of youth and age as we all know that in point in our lives we will die and each and every responder can relate ~~it~~ to this concept.