

the second coming by william butler yeats analysis

The Second Coming by William Butler Yeats Analysis

the second coming by william butler yeats analysis opens a doorway into one of the most profound and haunting poems of the 20th century. Written in 1919, in the aftermath of World War I and amid intense political turmoil, Yeats's poem captures a world teetering on the edge of chaos and transformation. This analysis delves into the rich symbolism, historical context, and thematic depth of "The Second Coming," revealing why it continues to resonate deeply with readers and critics alike.

Contextualizing "The Second Coming" by William Butler Yeats

Before exploring the poem's intricate layers, it's essential to understand the environment in which Yeats composed it. The poem emerged during a period marked by global instability—the devastation of World War I, the Irish War of Independence, and a general sense of cultural disintegration. Yeats, a mystic and a visionary, was deeply influenced by his interest in the occult and his belief in cyclical patterns of history. This background frames the apocalyptic tone of the poem and Yeats's notion of a "gyre," a spiraling cycle that shapes human history.

The Historical Backdrop

Yeats wrote "The Second Coming" just after the Great War, as Europe grappled with the enormous loss and the collapse of old orders. The violence and uncertainty led many to question the future of civilization. Yeats's poem echoes this anxiety, portraying a world where "things fall apart; the centre cannot hold." This line, famously quoted and often referenced, encapsulates the despair and disillusionment of the era.

Yeats's Philosophical Influences

Yeats's spiritual beliefs and his interest in mysticism significantly influenced the poem's imagery and themes. His theory of history involved a cyclical movement of spiritual ages, represented by the "gyres" – cones or spirals that expand and contract over time. In this vision, each cycle culminated in a dramatic upheaval before a new epoch begins. "The Second Coming" reflects the transition between such cycles, suggesting that a terrifying new force is about to emerge.

Line-by-Line Exploration of "The Second Coming"

To fully appreciate the poem, it helps to break down its key lines and phrases, highlighting their symbolic and thematic significance.

"Turning and turning in the widening gyre"

The poem opens with the image of a falcon circling farther and farther from its falconer. This symbolizes a loss of control and a breakdown of order. The "widening gyre" suggests history spinning out of control, reinforcing the theme of chaos overtaking stability.

"Things fall apart; the centre cannot hold"

These lines emphasize the collapse of societal structures and moral frameworks. The "centre" represents stability, order, and meaning, which are disintegrating. This powerful imagery captures the sense of fragmentation that defines the modern world in Yeats's view.

“The blood-dimmed tide is loosed”

This phrase conjures a wave of violence and destruction, reflecting the aftermath of war and revolution. The “blood-dimmed tide” symbolizes the uncontrollable forces of chaos that are unleashed upon humanity.

“The ceremony of innocence is drowned”

Here, Yeats laments the loss of purity and innocence amid the brutality of the times. The “ceremony” implies a ritual or order that is being overwhelmed by darkness and corruption.

“Surely some revelation is at hand”

This line introduces a sense of anticipation. Yeats suggests that the current chaos is a prelude to a significant, transformative event—an apocalyptic revelation that will redefine the world.

“The Second Coming! Hardly are those words out”

The poem’s title phrase is ironically invoked here. Traditionally associated with the return of Christ and the hope of salvation, Yeats twists this idea to suggest something far more ominous and ambiguous.

“A shape with lion body and the head of a man”

This mysterious figure symbolizes a new force emerging from the chaos. The combination of animal and human traits evokes the Sphinx, a mythological creature associated with riddles and prophecy.

This figure represents a powerful, unsettling new age.

“Spiritus Mundi” and the “rough beast”

Yeats refers to the “Spiritus Mundi,” or the world spirit, a collective reservoir of images and symbols that informs his vision of the future. The “rough beast” slouches toward Bethlehem, symbolizing a dark, primal force about to be born into the world, heralding a new but uncertain epoch.

Key Themes in The Second Coming by William Butler Yeats

Analysis

Understanding the dominant themes helps to appreciate the poem’s enduring relevance and emotional impact.

Chaos and Disorder

The poem vividly portrays a world unraveling. Yeats captures the sense that traditional social, political, and spiritual certainties are dissolving, leaving humanity vulnerable to unknown and potentially destructive forces.

The Cyclical Nature of History

Central to Yeats’s worldview is the idea that history moves in cycles. The poem reflects a transition from one era to another, suggesting that the collapse of the old order will give rise to something new, though not necessarily benevolent.

Apocalypse and Revelation

While “apocalypse” often connotes an end, Yeats’s apocalypse is more about revelation and transformation. The poem anticipates a dramatic unveiling of new realities that challenge existing beliefs and structures.

The Duality of Creation and Destruction

The imagery of the “rough beast” and the falcon’s spiraling flight implies that creation and destruction are intertwined. The end of one era inevitably leads to the birth of another, but this process is fraught with violence and uncertainty.

Symbolism and Imagery in Yeats’s Poem

Yeats’s use of symbolic language enriches the poem’s meaning, providing layers that invite multiple interpretations.

The Falcon and the Falconer

This image symbolizes control and its loss. The falcon’s increasing distance from the falconer metaphorically represents society’s growing detachment from guiding principles and order.

The Gyre

The gyre is a central symbol in Yeats’s philosophy. It conveys the cyclical, spiraling nature of time and

history, emphasizing that events are part of larger, inevitable patterns.

The Rough Beast

The “rough beast” is one of the poem’s most striking symbols. It can be seen as a harbinger of a new age—possibly dark and threatening. This ambiguity invites readers to contemplate what kind of future awaits.

Religious and Mythological References

Yeats draws on Christian imagery, such as the “Second Coming” and “Bethlehem,” but subverts traditional expectations. The poem’s apocalyptic vision is less about salvation and more about the unsettling birth of something unknown. It also incorporates mythic elements like the Sphinx, underlining the enigmatic nature of the prophecy.

Why "The Second Coming" Remains Relevant Today

Nearly a century after it was written, "The Second Coming" continues to captivate readers and scholars, often cited in discussions about political upheaval, social fragmentation, and cultural uncertainty.

Reflection of Modern Anxieties

The poem’s themes of chaos, collapse, and transformation resonate in times of crisis. Whether considering global conflicts, environmental disasters, or rapid social change, Yeats’s vision speaks to a collective unease about the future.

Influence on Literature and Popular Culture

Many writers, artists, and thinkers have drawn inspiration from "The Second Coming." Its evocative lines have appeared in novels, films, and political discourse, underscoring its powerful imagery and thematic richness.

Encouragement for Critical Thinking

Engaging with Yeats's poem encourages readers to think about history, spirituality, and human nature in complex ways. It challenges simplistic notions of progress and invites a deeper consideration of how societies evolve and transform.

Tips for Analyzing "The Second Coming" by William Butler

Yeats

For students, literature enthusiasts, or anyone seeking a deeper understanding, here are some helpful strategies:

- **Consider the Historical Context:** Understanding the political and social backdrop of 1919 enriches your interpretation.
- **Explore Yeats's Beliefs:** Researching his mysticism and philosophy clarifies the poem's symbolic language.
- **Analyze the Imagery:** Pay attention to the powerful visual symbols like the falcon, gyre, and rough beast.

- **Reflect on Themes:** Think about how chaos, cyclical history, and apocalypse interact in the poem.
- **Connect with Contemporary Issues:** Consider how the poem's messages relate to modern-day uncertainties and transformations.

By approaching the poem with these tips in mind, readers can unlock a more nuanced and rewarding experience.

In sum, the second coming by william butler yeats analysis reveals a poem that is as much a reflection of its turbulent time as it is a timeless meditation on change and uncertainty. Yeats's prophetic voice, rich symbolism, and philosophical depth make the poem a compelling exploration of the forces that shape human destiny. Whether read as a warning, a prophecy, or a poetic masterpiece, "The Second Coming" continues to provoke thought and evoke emotion, inviting each generation to grapple with its unsettling vision of the future.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the central theme of 'The Second Coming' by William Butler Yeats?

The central theme of 'The Second Coming' is the chaos and disintegration of the post-World War I world, symbolizing a cyclical view of history where a new, often terrifying era is about to begin.

How does Yeats use symbolism in 'The Second Coming'?

Yeats uses powerful symbols such as the falcon and the falconer, representing loss of control, and the

'rough beast' slouching towards Bethlehem, symbolizing a dark, ominous new age about to be born.

What is the significance of the 'gyre' in Yeats' poem 'The Second Coming'?

The 'gyre' symbolizes Yeats' theory of history as cyclical, with two cones widening apart, indicating that the current cycle is ending and a new, potentially destructive era is beginning.

How does 'The Second Coming' reflect the historical context of its time?

Written after World War I and during the Irish War of Independence, the poem reflects the widespread sense of chaos, disillusionment, and the breakdown of traditional social and political orders.

What is the tone of 'The Second Coming' and how does it contribute to the poem's impact?

The tone is ominous, foreboding, and apocalyptic, which heightens the sense of impending doom and transformation, emphasizing the unsettling change in the world order.

Who or what is the 'rough beast' mentioned in 'The Second Coming'?

The 'rough beast' is a symbol of a new, monstrous force or era emerging from the chaos, often interpreted as a metaphor for the destructive and transformative power about to reshape the world.

How does Yeats' use of imagery in 'The Second Coming' enhance its meaning?

Yeats employs vivid and unsettling imagery, such as 'the widening gyre' and 'the falcon cannot hear the falconer,' to depict loss of control and impending catastrophe, reinforcing the poem's themes of chaos and transformation.

What role does prophecy play in 'The Second Coming'?

The poem functions as a prophetic vision warning of a dramatic and unsettling change in history, suggesting the end of the Christian era and the rise of a new, unknown epoch.

How does 'The Second Coming' relate to Yeats' personal beliefs?

The poem reflects Yeats' interest in mysticism, occultism, and his theory of cyclical history, expressing his belief that civilization moves through cycles of order and chaos.

Why is 'The Second Coming' considered one of Yeats' most important works?

It is considered one of Yeats' most important works because of its profound exploration of historical change, its rich symbolism, and its enduring relevance to times of turmoil and transformation.

Additional Resources

****The Second Coming by William Butler Yeats Analysis: Unraveling the Prophetic Vision****

the second coming by william butler yeats analysis opens a window into one of the most haunting and prophetic poems of the early 20th century. Written in 1919, in the aftermath of World War I and amid the turbulence of the Irish War of Independence, Yeats's poem captures a world on the brink of radical transformation and chaos. This exploration offers a professional, investigative review of the poem's themes, symbolism, historical context, and its enduring impact on literature and culture, while seamlessly incorporating relevant SEO-friendly terms such as "Yeats symbolism," "apocalyptic poetry," and "modernist poetry analysis."

Contextual Background and Historical Significance

The second coming by William Butler Yeats analysis must begin with the historical and personal context surrounding its creation. Composed shortly after the devastating global conflict of World War I, the poem reflects Yeats's deep anxiety about societal collapse and moral decay. The early 20th century saw the old world order disintegrating, with revolutions, civil unrest, and the rise of new ideologies challenging established norms. Yeats, a prominent figure in the Irish Literary Revival and a senator in the Irish Free State, was profoundly influenced by these upheavals.

The poem's apocalyptic tone resonates with the disillusionment of the post-war era, capturing a collective sense of uncertainty and foreboding. The imagery Yeats employs is symbolic of the broader cultural and spiritual crisis of the time. Therefore, understanding the historical backdrop enriches the second coming by William Butler Yeats analysis, revealing how the poet's vision transcended immediate political events to probe universal themes of change and destruction.

In-Depth Analysis of Themes and Symbolism

The Cyclical Nature of History

Central to the second coming by William Butler Yeats analysis is the poet's belief in the cyclical nature of history. Yeats was influenced by his own mystical system of thought, particularly his concept of the "gyres," representing spirals of historical epochs that inevitably collapse and give way to new eras. The poem's famous line, "Things fall apart; the centre cannot hold," encapsulates this idea of disintegration preceding transformation.

This theme underlines a pessimistic vision where the disintegration of existing structures signals not merely decay but the emergence of a new, and potentially more terrifying, order. The notion that history is not linear but cyclical contributes to the poem's haunting resonance and aligns with Yeats's

broader philosophical musings.

Symbolism of the “Second Coming” and the Sphinx-like Creature

The phrase “The Second Coming” evokes Christian eschatology, specifically the anticipated return of Christ. However, Yeats subverts this expectation by depicting a beast rising from the desert, “a shape with lion body and the head of a man,” often interpreted as a sphinx or a monstrous new force. This creature symbolizes a radical and unsettling change—an antithesis to traditional Christian salvation, suggesting the birth of a new era marked by chaos rather than redemption.

This powerful imagery serves as a metaphor for the unknown and potentially destructive forces emerging in society. The second coming by William Butler Yeats analysis highlights the complexity of this symbol, which can be read as a critique of modernity’s alienation and the collapse of moral and spiritual certainties.

Apocalyptic Imagery and Tone

The poem’s apocalyptic tone is underscored by vivid and unsettling images: the “blood-dimmed tide” that “is loosed,” the falcon spiraling out of control, and the “rough beast” slouching toward Bethlehem. These images evoke a sense of impending doom and upheaval. Yeats’s use of sensory and kinetic language intensifies the feeling of a world unraveling, reflecting both personal anxiety and collective cultural disorientation.

This rich apocalyptic imagery places the poem firmly within the tradition of apocalyptic poetry, where visions of destruction are intertwined with prophecy and existential reflection. The second coming by William Butler Yeats analysis benefits from recognizing how these images communicate a profound ambivalence—between fear of annihilation and the possibility of renewal.

Literary Style and Structural Features

Yeats's mastery of modernist poetry techniques is another crucial aspect of the second coming by William Butler Yeats analysis. The poem's structure—two stanzas of irregular length, free verse, and shifting rhythms—mirrors the thematic chaos and fragmentation. Yeats eschews traditional rhyme schemes, employing a raw and urgent voice that captures the instability of the period.

The poem's diction ranges from archaic ("Spiritus Mundi") to visceral and immediate ("blood-dimmed tide"), creating a tension between timeless prophecy and contemporary crisis. The second coming by William Butler Yeats analysis thus reveals how formal innovation reinforces thematic content, making the poem a landmark of modernist poetry.

Role of "Spiritus Mundi" in the Poem

The term "Spiritus Mundi," Latin for "world spirit," refers to a collective unconscious or shared reservoir of images and ideas. Yeats believed that poets could tap into this spiritual archive to unlock universal truths. In the second coming, the gyre and the monstrous beast emerge from this realm of archetypes, linking personal vision with cosmic significance.

Understanding Spiritus Mundi is essential in the second coming by William Butler Yeats analysis because it bridges the gap between mysticism and literary creativity. It underscores Yeats's conviction that poetry has prophetic power, capable of perceiving historical and spiritual realities beyond immediate perception.

Comparative Insights and Literary Influence

When placed alongside other apocalyptic and modernist works, the second coming by William Butler Yeats analysis gains further depth. The poem shares thematic concerns with T.S. Eliot's "The Waste

Land,” particularly the depiction of cultural decay and spiritual desolation. However, Yeats’s distinct mythological framework and prophetic tone set his work apart, offering a more esoteric and symbolic vision of collapse and renewal.

Moreover, the poem’s influence extends beyond literature into political discourse, popular culture, and even music, where its lines are frequently quoted to evoke moments of crisis or transformation. This widespread resonance underscores the poem’s enduring relevance and its powerful articulation of universal anxieties about change.

Pros and Cons of Yeats’s Apocalyptic Vision

- **Pros:** The poem’s visionary imagery and symbolic depth provide profound insight into historical cycles and cultural anxieties. It stimulates critical reflection on the nature of change, morality, and spiritual destiny.
- **Cons:** Yeats’s pessimistic tone and ambiguous symbols may alienate readers seeking clear-cut optimism or resolution. The dense mythological references can be challenging for those unfamiliar with his esoteric beliefs.

Balancing these aspects is crucial in any comprehensive the second coming by William Butler Yeats analysis, recognizing both its literary genius and its demanding complexity.

Conclusion: The Second Coming’s Timeless Resonance

The second coming by William Butler Yeats analysis reveals a poem that transcends its immediate historical moment to offer a chilling meditation on the cycles of history, the fragility of order, and the

emergence of unknown forces. Its apocalyptic imagery, symbolic richness, and modernist style combine to create a work that continues to inspire, provoke, and challenge readers worldwide.

Ultimately, Yeats's prophetic vision captures the paradox of human existence—the simultaneous fear of destruction and hope for renewal. This duality ensures that the poem remains a vital subject of literary study and cultural reflection, especially in times of uncertainty and upheaval.

The Second Coming By William Butler Yeats Analysis

the second coming by william butler yeats analysis: A Study Guide for William Butler Yeats's "The Second Coming" Cengage Learning Gale, 2017-07-25 A Study Guide for William Butler Yeats's The Second Coming, excerpted from Gale's acclaimed Poetry for Students. This concise study guide includes plot summary; character analysis; author biography; study questions; historical context; suggestions for further reading; and much more. For any literature project, trust Poetry for Students for all of your research needs.

the second coming by william butler yeats analysis: W.B. Yeats "The Second Coming". Analysis of an Apocalyptic Poem Anna Stumpe, 2015-09-08 Seminar paper from the year 2012 in the subject English Language and Literature Studies - Literature, Martin Luther University (Institut für Anglistik und Amerikanistik), course: William Butler Yeats, language: English, abstract: William Butler Yeats did not just believe in the apocalypse, he was known for his prophetic insights and imaginative visions of the breakdown of civilization. As the Mesoamerican Long Count Calendar ends on December, 21 in 2012, many people suggest this date marks the end of the world or of human civilization. It is of a certain interest that already in the early twentieth century Yeats was concerned with this kind of apocalyptic worldview. "The Second Coming" therefore is one of the poems that also represents his understanding of the apocalypse, which is not comparable to those who believe in the prophecy of the Mayan calendar. "For him, the apocalypse is always connected with genuine spiritual revelation [and] with vision," as it is the literal translation of the Greek word (Howes, Kelly 2006: 52). With this iconic, prophetic poem, he is not only regarded a public hero but also deviates from established popular beliefs, wherefore he is also named the first iconoclastic Modernist in English writing. The stunning, violent imagery and terrifying ritualistic language makes "The Second Coming" an archetypal poem about the return of history with violence. Likewise, as it was composed in 1919 and published in 1920, it represents Yeats' immediate reaction to the political instable situation of Ireland, England and Europe after Civil War, Russian Revolution and WWI. In consequence to that, "The Second Coming" is one the most obscure works of Yeats, hence quite difficult to understand in the first place. For this reason, firstly, this paper concentrates on the historical and political background information, which is fundamental to the poem's understanding. Secondly, it is this examination's method to analyze and interpret the poem's form, structure and images. At that, not only "The Second Coming" in its structure but also this chapter divides into three parts, from which each displays another phase in the development of the poet's state of mind. Consequently, each line of "The Second Coming" is examined, both to explain the poet's development and to prove the central issues of W.B. Yeats' poem. Eventually, this paper provides a conclusion, wherein its argumentation is summarized. This summary consequently also states the poem's effect on the reader.

the second coming by william butler yeats analysis: A Study Guide for William Butler

Yeats's "The Second Coming" Gale, Cengage Learning, 2016 A Study Guide for William Butler Yeats's The Second Coming, excerpted from Gale's acclaimed Poetry for Students. This concise study guide includes plot summary; character analysis; author biography; study questions; historical context; suggestions for further reading; and much more. For any literature project, trust Poetry for Students for all of your research needs.

the second coming by william butler yeats analysis: *Critical Companion to William Butler Yeats* David A. Ross, 2014-05-14 Examines the life and writings of William Butler Yeats, including a biographical sketch, detailed synopses of his works, social and historical influences, and more.

the second coming by william butler yeats analysis: A Routledge Literary Sourcebook on the Poems of W.B. Yeats Michael O'Neill, 2004 Table of contents

the second coming by william butler yeats analysis: *The Gaelic Twilight and Poetics of W. B. Yeats* Samiran Kumar Paul, 2020-12-10 This book explores the question of Yeats's identity as an important issue in the criticism of the Irish poet. The identity of the poet with the advent of postcolonial theory into Irish studies in general and Yeats's studies in particular, this controversial issue has gained new dimensions. Whether Yeats was a revolutionary and anti-colonial nationalist or a poet with unionist and colonialist inclinations has been the subject of much debate and less agreement. One can justify any of these versions of Yeats by concentrating on some of his works and utterances and ignoring some others. However, this will result in an incomplete and partial picture of a complex, multidimensional, and ever-changing poet such as Yeats. It explores the different aspects of W. B. Yeats's poetic theory and political ideology. It also studies Yeats's modernity and influences on his contemporaries as well as successors, such as T. S. Eliot, Ezra Pound and W. B. Yeats. Though three common themes in Yeats' poetry are love, Irish nationalism and mysticism, modernism is the overriding theme in his writings. Yeats started his long literary career as a romantic poet and gradually evolved into a modernist poet. As a typical modern poet, he regrets the post-war modern world, which is now in disorder and chaotic tuition and laments the past.

the second coming by william butler yeats analysis: *Yeats* Richard J. Finneran, 2003-10-28 The most recent volume of this distinguished annual

the second coming by william butler yeats analysis: *The Gyroscopic Transformation of Self Quest in W. B. Yeats's Poetry* Özlem Saylan, 2019-01-17 Carrying a story to tell is the "ancient burden" of craftsmen, and it is one of the characteristics of the quest to find oneself, since a journey requires recognition of the aspects of self and anti-self. Like the speaker of his poems, W.B. Yeats has something to tell. His poetry draws nourishment from the battle between the dichotomies of self and anti-self, human and divine, mind and intellect, past and present, and body and soul. This book covers a selection of Yeats's poems from 1889 to 1939, discussing them within the frame of the quest to find oneself and its gyroscopic transformation. The book illustrates that self is not a single entity, but has multiple layers, and it can be found within the quest in which it experiences a simultaneous transformation with every phase of the antithetical structure of gyroscopic movements. In addition, the way of the quest is cyclical; however, it is not a vicious cycle, since, in life, every end is a phase of a beginning and every beginning is a phase of an end.

the second coming by william butler yeats analysis: *The Curve of Life* Heinz Kohut, 2018-12-01 Psychoanalyst, teacher, and scholar, Heinz Kohut was one of this century's most important intellectuals. A rebel, according to many mainstream psychoanalysts, Kohut challenged Freudian orthodoxy and the medical control of psychoanalysis in America. His success in treating narcissistic disorders and his highly influential book *How Does Analysis Cure?* established Kohut's Self Psychology as the strongest rival to traditional psychoanalysis today. *The Curve of Life* reveals Kohut's private and public life through a unique collection of lively and thoughtful correspondence with colleagues, public figures, family, and close friends. Over 300 never-before-published letters, drawn from Kohut's private files and from colleagues, cover Kohut's life from his native Austria in the 1930s until his death in 1981. Because many of his letters were so substantive, this rich collection clarifies Kohut's landmark published works. In letters to such diverse personalities as Anna Freud and Bruno Walter, Kohut meditated on some of the most intriguing psychoanalytic

questions of the day—the nature of psychological cure, the relationship between doctor and patient, and the role of the Oedipus complex in psychoanalysis. The correspondence also reveals Kohut's lively interest in literature, music, history, and culture, as well as his deep and often contentious involvement in the politics of the psychoanalytic movement. Kohut discussed his theories in letters to August Aichhorn, Heinz Hartmann, the Surgeon General, and even Jacqueline Kennedy, and the responses, some published here for the first time, prompted him to explore his ideas from a variety of perspectives. A letter from Anna Freud provoked Kohut to respond this way: What you had to say gave me great pleasure, and your approval was a welcome support amidst the inescapable insecurities under pressure to which we are all exposed. Strangely enough, it was not the discussion of scientific contributions and other statements that I had sent to you but the very last, parting sentence of your letter which gave me the most food for thought. You sent me your best wishes for the presidency of the American Psychoanalytic Association, and expressed the hope that '...this office permits opportunity for some revolutionary moves.' *The Curve of Life* illuminates the evolution of Kohut's theory of the psychology of the self, and provides a rare glimpse into the institutional and intellectual history of psychoanalysis in the last half of this century. These letters will fascinate not only scholars in psychoanalysis, but also those in the humanities, social sciences, and even theology, as well as general readers curious about the private thoughts of a towering figure in intellectual life.

the second coming by william butler yeats analysis: Marxist Literary Criticism Today

Barbara Foley, 2019-02-20 *Winner of the CHOICE Outstanding Academic Book Prize, 2019*

Shortlisted for the Isaac Deutscher Prize 2019 Why Marxism? Why today? In the first introduction to Marxist literary criticism to be published in decades, Barbara Foley argues that Marxism continues to offer the best framework for exploring the relationship between literature and society. She lays out in clear terms the principal aspects of Marxist methodology - historical materialism, political economy and ideology critique - as well as key debates, among Marxists and non-Marxists alike, about the nature of literature and the goals of literary criticism and pedagogy. Foley examines through the empowering lens of Marxism a wide range of texts: from Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice* to E. L. James's *Fifty Shades of Grey*; from Frederick Douglass's 'What to the Slave Is the Fourth of July?' to Annie Proulx's 'Brokeback Mountain'; from W.B. Yeats's 'The Second Coming' to Claude McKay's 'If We Must Die'.

the second coming by william butler yeats analysis: The Logic of the Spirit in Human Thought and Experience Keith J White, Dana R Wright, 2015-02-26 In March 2012 a small consultation convened on the campus of Princeton Theological Seminary, where James E. Loder Jr. had served for forty years as the Mary D. Synnott Professor of the Philosophy of Christian Education. Members from the Child Theology Movement had begun to read Loder's work and they wanted to go further. So they invited former students of Loder's to meet with them for conversations about things that really mattered to them and to Loder: human beings (and especially children), the church's witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ, and discerning the work of Spiritus Creator in the postmodern world. The conversations proved rich and rewarding and some would even say they took on a life of their own - serious scholarship set to the music of the Spirit's communion-creating artistry forming new relationships, inspiring new ideas, and sustaining all of it amid much laughter, joy, and hope. These essays, taken from the papers delivered at the consultation, are offered as a means of extending that conversation inspired by Loder's interdisciplinary practical theological science and his discernment of the

the second coming by william butler yeats analysis: W.B. Yeats and Indian Thought

Snezana Dabic, 2016-11-14 This book presents an in-depth study of the influence of Indian philosophical and religious thought on W.B. Yeats's poetic and dramatic work. It traces the development of this influence and inspiration from Yeats's early impressionistic work to the mature and elaborate incorporation of Indian ideas into the structure, themes and symbolism of his writing. It recognizes the importance of his Indian friendships, Indian essays, and shows the limits of his Indianness. While providing a comprehensive analysis of Yeats's poetry and his bizarre poetic play, *The Herne's Egg*, from an Eastern perspective, the book examines how Indian philosophical

concepts guided Yeats in constructing his characters, imagery, and symbology, and in shaping the structure of his dramatic narrative. Yeats's liminal positioning between Orientalism and Celticism, Irish nationalism and British imperialism, and his heterogeneous literary aspirations and modernist poetic idiom are probed and explored in order to position him on a pendulum of postcolonial debate. The focus in this book is on the aesthetic appreciation of the parts of Yeats's creative opus where he engaged with Eastern thought, with genuine interest and enthusiasm, when the pendulum swings towards Yeats being a mythopoetic and anticolonial writer.

the second coming by william butler yeats analysis: 20th Century Poems Mr. Rohit Manglik, 2023-04-23 Exploration of modernist and postmodern poetry (Eliot, Plath, Hughes).

the second coming by william butler yeats analysis: Oral Interpretation Timothy Gura, Benjamin Powell, 2018-08-06 In its 13th Edition, the iconic Oral Interpretation continues to prepare students to analyze and perform literature through an accessible, step-by-step process. New selections join classic favorites, and chapters devoted to specific genres—narrative, poetry, group performance, and more—explore the unique challenges of each form. Now tighter and more focused than its predecessors, this edition highlights movements in contemporary culture—especially the contributions of social media to current communication. New writings offer advice and strategies for maximizing body and voice in performance, and enhanced devices guide novices in performance preparation.

the second coming by william butler yeats analysis: Advice and Consent Peter DeLeon, 1989-01-28 Policy analysis, as a practical matter, is hardly new. Throughout history, rulers have sought advice from priests or sages, and monarchs have conferred with counselors. The emergence of empirical social research in the nineteenth century laid the groundwork for policy advice that was more than an idiosyncratic political exercise, but it was not until well into this century that the systematic examination of policy issues became feasible. Advice and Consent traces the recent course of the policy sciences, a term coined in 1951 to describe an analytic approach that draws on political science, sociology, law, economics, psychology, and operations research to examine specific social problems in context. Peter deLeon's unique contribution is to delineate two separate but related currents in the development of the policy sciences: first, the evolution of intellectual tools for analysis (advice); and second, the evolution of a perceived need for policy research as prompted by events such as the war on poverty (consent). Peter deLeon's concise and literate account of how these two trends shaped the policy sciences and affected each other clarifies the present state of policy research, explores its failure to realize fully its ideals, and frames the challenges facing the policy sciences as they struggle to complete their transformation from academic fancy to institutional fact.

the second coming by william butler yeats analysis: Oral Interpretation Charlotte I. Lee, Timothy Gura, 1987

the second coming by william butler yeats analysis: Asia in the Undergraduate Curriculum: A Case for Asian Studies in Liberal Arts Education Van Jay Symons, Suzanne Wilson Barnett, 2016-07-08 The contributors place the development of Asian studies programs in small colleges in historical context, make a compelling case for the inclusion of Asian studies in the liberal arts curriculum, and consider the challenges faced in developing and sustaining Asian studies programs and ways of meeting such challenges now and in the future.

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