

# Studied - Poetry | Sample Answer

**‘The more familiar you become with a poem, the deeper your understanding of that poem becomes.’**

**Title of poem:** The Lake of Innisfree

**Name of poet:** W.B. Yeats

**(a) Select a poem you have studied and explain how this statement applies to your understanding of this poem. Use the poem to support your ideas. (Question 3a, 2017)**

When I initially read the ‘Lake of Innisfree’, I did not understand the meaning of several lines and could not grasp the concept of the poem.

As I continued to read the poem and analyse the meaning of the lines, I gained a deeper understanding of the poet’s message. For example, my interpretation of the line "And the live alone in the bee loud glade" changed after becoming familiar with the poem. While at first this line did not make much sense, I later understood it meant he wishes to live alone in harmony with the sights and sounds of nature. I also misinterpreted the line “While I stand on the roadway, or on the pavements grey” to mean he was travelling somewhere. As I became more familiar with the poet’s backstory however, I learned he was referencing his time in London- a place he found dreary and depressing.

I gained a deeper understanding of the poem's message after analysing and becoming familiar with the poem and the poet’s backstory.

**(b) Identify at least two poetic techniques used in your chosen poem and explain how the poet makes effective use of these techniques in this poem. Support your ideas with reference to the poem.**

One of the more prominent poetic techniques used in ‘The Lake of Innisfree’ is alliteration. An example of alliteration in this poem is within the line ‘I hear lake water lapping with low sounds

by the shore'. We can observe alliteration through the repeated use of the letter 'l' at the beginning of most words. Alliteration captures the reader's attention and develops a rhythm in the poem. This alliteration can be linked to the central theme of the text, and the readers often drawn to the 'snappiness' of alliteration. They therefore remember it more than other lines and hence, after reading the poem, the reader remembers the message of the poem.

Another technique used in this poem is rhyming. WB Yeats uses alternate rhyming in this poem- in the form ABAB. For example, "I will arise and go now, go to Innisfree... Nine bean rows will I have there a hive for the honeybee". Rhyme enhances a musical aspect to the poem. It also gives emphasis to certain words, highlighting their importance.