

An Irish Airman Foresees His Death Key Facts

Writer: William Butler Yeats | Generated: Jan 26, 2026

Key Facts

- **Poet:** William Butler Yeats (1865–1939)
- **Original Title:** An Irish Airman Foresees His Death
- **Written Time:** Around 1918 (during World War I)
- **First Published:** 1919, in the collection The Wild Swans at Coole
- **Form:** Dramatic Monologue / Lyric Poem
- **Genre:** War Poetry, Philosophical Poetry, and Elegy
- **Tone:** Calm, Reflective, Stoic, and Fatalistic
- **Rhyme Scheme:** ABABCD CD EFGH GH (regular alternating rhyme)
- **Meter:** Iambic Tetrameter
- **Point of View:** First Person (spoken by the airman himself)
- **Summary in a Line:** An Irish pilot calmly accepts his death in war. He is fighting neither for hate nor for love, but from a lonely personal impulse.
- **Total Lines:** 16
- **Total Stanzas:** 1 (a single continuous stanza)
- **Setting:**
- **Time Setting:** World War I (1914–1918)
- **Place Setting:** The skies over Europe, symbolically “among the clouds above.”