

Follower Key Facts

Writer: Seamus Heaney | Generated: Jan 26, 2026

Key Facts

- **Poet:** Seamus Heaney (1939-2013)
- **Full Title:** Follower
- **First Published:** 1966 in his poetry collection, *Death of a Naturalist*
- **Form:** Six quatrains (4-line stanzas)
- **Lines:** 24
- **Meter:** "Follower" is mostly written in iambic tetrameter, meaning that the lines consist of four sets of iambs or eight syllables, an unstressed syllable followed by a **stressed** syllable. Take line 5:

An

ex-

| pert.

He

| would

set

| the

wing

- **Rhyme Scheme:** ABAB throughout the poem
- **Tone:** Admiring, nostalgic, and emotional
- **Setting:** A farm in rural Ireland, where Heaney's father ploughs the fields
- **Speaker:** The poet himself (as an adult remembering his childhood)
- **Main Characters:** The poet and his father