

Requiem for the Croppies Key Facts

Writer: Seamus Heaney | Generated: Jan 26, 2026

Key Facts

- **Poet:** Seamus Heaney (1939-2013)
- **Full Title:** Requiem for the Croppies
- **Written:** 1966
- **Collection:** The poem is collected in Heaney's 1969 poetry collection *Door into the Dark*
- **Form:** Sonnet (14 lines)
- **Meter:** The poem uses iambic pentameter, the typical meter for a sonnet. It means the lines have five iambs or ten syllables, where an unstressed syllable is followed by a stressed syllable. However, there are some variations.
- **Rhyme Scheme:** The Poet's rhyme scheme is ABAB CDCD EFEF. The octave/opening quatrains follow the pattern of a Shakespearean sonnet, while the sestet looks like a Petrarchan sonnet. Note, too, that many of these end rhymes are decidedly slant (not exact match): "barley"/"country," "day"/"infantry," and "thrown"/"cannon"/"coffin."
- **Tone:** Sad, respectful, and patriotic
- **Setting:** Ireland during the 1798 Irish Rebellion, especially the Battle of Vinegar Hill
- **Speaker:** A croppy (Irish rebel) who speaks as one of the dead soldiers

• Famous Line:

"And in August the barley grew up out of the grave."