

The Lake Isle of Innisfree Key Facts

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

Key Facts

- **Full Title:** The Lake Isle of Innisfree
- **Author:** William Butler Yeats (1865–1939)
- **Title of the Author:** The Last Romantic Poet & Irish National Poet
- **Prize:** Nobel Prize (1923)
- **Source:** Inspired by Yeats's childhood visits to County Sligo and the natural beauty of Lough Gill and Innisfree Island
- **Written Time:** 1888 (in London, during a moment of homesickness)
- **First Published:** 1890 (in The National Observer), later included in The Rose (1893)
- **Publisher:** The National Observer (initial publication); later, collected by Macmillan in The Rose
- **Genre:** Lyrical Poem
- **Form:** Twelve-line lyric divided into three quatrains (4-line stanzas)
- **Rhyme Scheme:** ABAB CDCD EFEF
- **Tone:** Dreamy, Meditative, Reflective, Tranquil
- **Point of View:** First-Person (the speaker is Yeats himself or a poetic persona)
- **Climax:** The speaker contrasts the noisy urban life with the peaceful dream of Innisfree
- **Significance:** A symbol of inner peace, spiritual retreat, and the poet's yearning for harmony with nature; a bridge between Romanticism and early Modernism
- **Setting:**
 - **Time Setting:** Timeless; reflects an eternal hope
 - **Place Setting:** Innisfree — a small uninhabited island in Lough Gill, County Sligo, Ireland