

The Lake Isle of Innisfree Literary Devices

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

Figures of Speech

- **Metaphor:** Peace is described as something that "drops" slowly, like rain or dew. But peace is not a real object that can drop. So, this is a metaphor.
- **Personification:** The evening is described as being "full of wings", as if evening can hold something. This gives a human-like quality to the evening.
- **Imagery:** It helps us clearly see a picture of the place with bean-rows and a beehive. It creates a peaceful image in our mind.
- **Symbols:**
 - **Lake Isle of Innisfree:** Symbol of peace, simplicity, and escape from modern life. Innisfree is a small island, but in the poem, it is a dream place. It stands for peace, freedom, and natural life. The speaker wants to leave the busy city and live there in silence.
 - **Bee-loud glade:** Symbol of harmony with nature. A glade is a small open space in a forest. When Yeats says "bee-loud glade," it means a place where bees hum in peace. It shows a simple, quiet life close to nature.
 - **Nine bean-rows and hive:** Symbol of self-sufficiency and rural life. The speaker wants to grow beans and keep bees. These show a peaceful rural life and self-dependence. He does not want a rich or fast life, just simple living.
 - **"Peace comes dropping slow":** Symbol of spiritual peace. Peace is shown like gentle rain falling slowly. It means deep, calm, and inner peace that comes from nature.
 - **"Lake water lapping":** Symbol of connection to nature through sound. The sound of the lake water touching the shore is soft and calm. It shows the speaker's deep connection with nature.

Main Message:

- Nature gives peace.
- Simple life gives joy.