

The Stolen Child Key Facts

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

Key Facts

- **Poet:** William Butler Yeats (1865–1939)
- **Original Title:** The Stolen Child
- **Written Time:** 1886 (early period of Yeats's writing career)
- **First Published:** 1886, in The Irish Monthly. Later included in The Wanderings of Oisín and Other Poems (1889)
- **Form:** Ballad-style Lyric Poem
- **Genre:** Romantic, Mythical, and Symbolic Poetry
- **Tone:** Dreamlike, Melancholic, Enchanting, and Mournful
- **Rhyme Scheme:** ABABCD CD (with a repeating refrain)
- **Meter:** Mostly Iambic Tetrameter and Iambic Trimeter
- **Point of View:** Third Person (narrated through the voices of the fairies)
- **Summary in a Line:** Fairies tempt a human child to leave the sorrowful human world and join their magical land of eternal beauty.
- **Total Lines:** 48
- **Total Stanzas:** 4
- **Setting:**
- **Time Setting:** Mythical Ireland (inspired by ancient Celtic folklore)
- **Place Setting:** Irish landscapes like Sleuth Wood, Rosses, and Glen-Car. They blend real Irish nature with the fantasy world of the fairies.