

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_

## When You Are Old

By William Butler Yeats  
1892

*William Butler Yeats (1865-1939) was an Irish poet and a prominent figure in the Irish Literary Revival, as well as an important figure in 20th century literature. It is speculated that this poem, "When You Are Old," was written for the Irish revolutionary Maud Gonne. Yeats was deeply in love with Maud, although she never felt the same way about him. As you read, identify examples of imagery in the poem.*

[1] When you are old and grey and full of sleep,  
And nodding by the fire, take down this book,  
And slowly read, and dream of the soft look  
Your eyes had once, and of their shadows deep;

[5] How many loved your moments of glad grace,  
And loved your beauty with love false or true,  
But one man loved the pilgrim<sup>1</sup> soul in you,  
And loved the sorrows of your changing face;

And bending down beside the glowing bars,  
[10] Murmur, a little sadly, how Love fled  
And paced upon the mountains overhead  
And hid his face amid a crowd of stars.



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1. specifically referring to a wanderer in this context