

Question Support

LITERARY ANALYSIS

For questions 1–3, see page 1197 of the Student Edition.

Directions: Answer each question.

- 4. Clarify Meaning in Poetry** In lines 9–14 of “Sailing to Byzantium,” what does “a tattered coat upon a stick” represent? Mark an *X* beside the correct answer .

- ____ a. an elderly person’s frail body without spirit or soul
 ____ b. a protective covering that hides our shame or sins
 ____ c. the worldly possessions that we accumulate during life

- 5. Analyze Symbols** Next to each symbol write the number of the thing it represents.

- | | |
|--|------------------------------|
| ____ a. golden bird in “Sailing to Byzantium” | 1. superficial people |
| ____ b. rough beast in “The Second Coming” | 2. evil |
| ____ c. a crowd of stars in “When You Are Old” | 3. the immortal soul |

- 6. Draw Conclusions** Complete these sentences about “Sailing to Byzantium.”

The speaker feels that young people are caught up in “sensual music” and ignore _____

The poem presents an image of old age that is _____

Yeats suggests that one form of immortality is to create _____

- 7. Understand Historical Context** Yeats wrote “The Second Coming” one year after the end of World War I. How might a world war have affected Yeats’s view of the world in this poem?

- 8. Compare Poems** On the back of this sheet, compare and contrast the views of change in these three poems.