

(1892)
% the country =
no unity

The Rose Tree
William Butler Yeats

Irish independ. movement
voice of →

* Sestets = (3)

'O words are lightly spoken,
Said Pearse to Connolly,
'Maybe a breath of politic words
Has withered our Rose Tree;
Or maybe but a wind that blows
Across the bitter sea.'

symbolic of
Irish nationalism
country is dying

* fictional conversation bet. Connolly + Pearse, leaders of 1916 Easter Rising

= both shot to death by firing squad

* Yeats effort to connect Irish identity w/ Independence from Britain, revolution + sacrifice

'It needs to be but watered,
James Connolly replied,

w/ own (people's) blood

lines
* 4+6 (end rhymes) in each stanza

sym.
'To make the green come out again
And spread on every side,
And shake the blossom from the bud
To be the garden's pride.'

— blood sacrifice ultimate + only way to obtain freedom

'But where can we draw water,
Said Pearse to Connolly,
'When all the wells are parched away?
O plain as plain can be
There's nothing but our own red blood
Can make a right Rose Tree.'

* after crucifixion thr. blood/sacrifice (Christ) allus.
Ireland will be resurrected anew thr. their spilt blood