

When you are old

W B Yeats

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;

How many loved your moments of glad grace,
And loved your beauty with love false or true,
But one man loved the pilgrim soul in you,
And loved the sorrows of your changing face;

And bending down beside the glowing bars,
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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Checking for Understanding

1. What does the author advise you to do “when you are old and grey and full of sleep”?
2. How did the author use rhythm and rhyme in this poem?
3. What are some examples of figurative language in this text? How does this add to the reader’s understanding of the text?

Vocabulary

- amid
- sorrows

<http://www.publicdomainpoems.com/whenyouareold.html>