**That the Night Come** – W.B. Yeats (1916)

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| SHE lived in storm and strife, |   |
| Her soul had such desire |   |
| For what proud death may bring |   |
| That it could not endure |   |
| The common good of life, |
| But lived as ’twere a king |   |
| That packed his marriage day |   |
| With banneret and pennon, |   |
| Trumpet and kettledrum, |   |
| And the outrageous cannon, |
| To bundle time away |   |
| That the night come. |   |

Who is our speaker and what does she want?

What “lived as ‘twere a king”? The speaker? Her soul? Death?

What effect does this vivid description have? Especially consider that the woman specifically mentions a wedding—odd in this context, given her desire.

What does the night represent, based on our clues from the rest of the poem?

Re-consider the poem in light of the fact that it was written in 1916. How does it change your reading of the character? (Hint: she’s an anachronism. Google it☺)

**Whole-class Discussion**

1. Does Yeats seem to approve of or disapprove of the woman’s desire for death? Use clues/evidence as you consider this question.
2. Why might the woman desire death, given the clues in the story?
3. Why does the final line deviate from tetrameter?
4. How is death portrayed in the poem?

**Multiple-Choice Questions**

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