

Eva Gore-Booth – Roger Casement poem

You are going to hear a poem written by Eva Gore-Booth entitled *Roger Casement*. The poem was written after Casement's execution and speaks of his life, death and place in history.



First, just listen to the poem and consider the questions below.

Questions

1. What is the poem's perspective of Casement?
2. What brings you to this opinion?
3. What poetic techniques does the poem use to enhance these points?

Background

Have a look at the information about the poem's writer, Eva Gore-Booth, and the woman mentioned in the poem, Kathleen Ni Houlighaun and discuss.

1. How does the information concerning Eva Gore-Booth influence your reading of the poem?
2. Why does Eva mention Kathleen Ni Houlighaun in the poem?

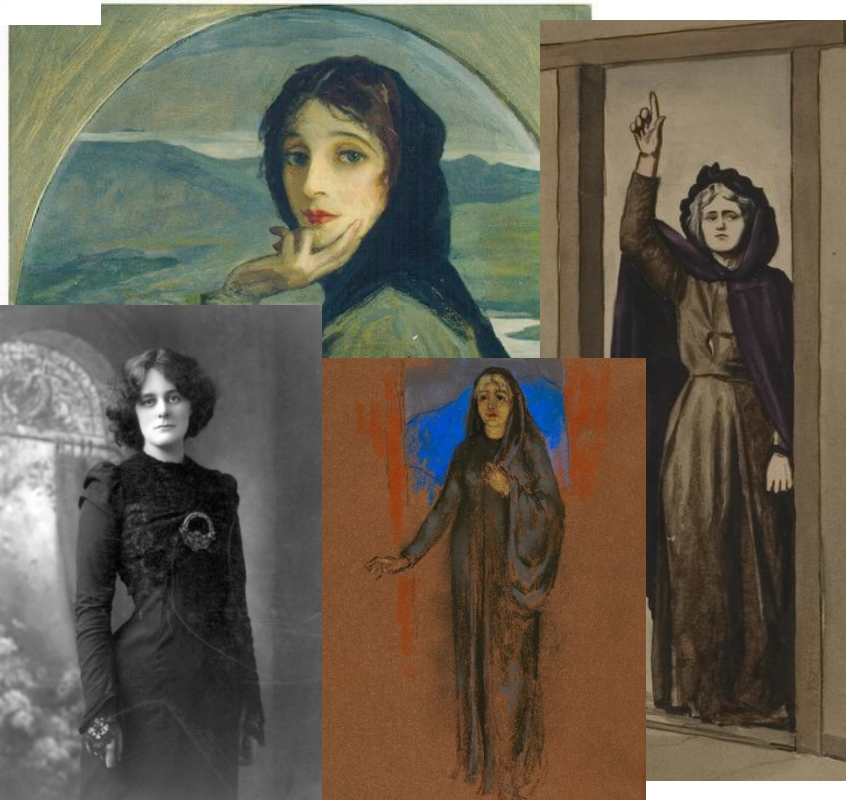


The writer: Eva Gore-Booth

Eva was an Irish poet, dramatist and suffragist. She was a peace activist and campaigned to abolish the death sentence. She showed solidarity for Roger Casement by attending his trial to support the overturning of his death sentence.

Kathleen Ni Houlighaun

Kathleen is a mythical symbol and emblem of Irish Nationalism. She has been featured in various literature and art including paintings and plays. She is often depicted as an old woman who needs the help of young Irish men to fight and free Ireland from colonial rule.



The Poem

1. What is the main point that Eva Gore-Booth is making about Roger Casement's life and death in each stanza?
 2. What impact does her vocabulary usage have? What poetic techniques are used? Consider: repetition, alliteration and rhyme structure.
 3. What was Eva Gore-Booth's main motivation for writing the poem?
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ROGER CASEMENT

I dream of one who is dead,
As the forms of green trees float and fall in the water,
The dreams float and fall in my mind.

I dream of him wandering in a far land,
I dream of him bringing hope to the hopeless,
I dream of him bringing light to the blind.

I dream of him hearing the voice,
The bitter cry of Kathleen ni Houlighaun
On the salt Atlantic wind.

I dream of the hatred of men,
Their lies against him who knew nothing of lying,
Nor was there fear in his mind.

I dream of our hopes and fears,
The long bitter struggle of the broken-hearted,
With hearts that were poisoned and hard.

I dream of the peace in his soul,
And the early morning hush on the grave of a hero
In the desolate prison yard.

I dream of the death that he died,
For the sake of God and Kathleen ni Houlighaun,
Yea, for Love and Voice on the Wind.

I dream of one who is dead.
Above dreams that float and fall in the water
A new star shines in my mind.

(Gore-Booth, Eva. 1934)