

Contents

To the student 5

The author and his work 6

Critical introduction 10

1 Yeats and symbolism 10

2 Ireland: the country and its politics 11

3 Maud Gonne 14

4 Magic and the occult 15

Poem summaries and textual notes 18

from **Crossways** (1889) 18

from **The Rose** (1893) 25

from **The Wind among the Reeds** (1899) 36

from **In the Seven Woods** (1904) 44

from **The Green Helmet and other poems** (1910) 47

from **Responsibilities** (1914) 51

from **The Wild Swans at Coole** (1919) 59

from **Michael Robartes and the Dancer** (1921) 69

from **The Tower** (1928) 76

from **The Winding Stair and other poems** (1933) 89

from **Words for Music Perhaps** 98

from **A Woman Young and Old** 102

from **A Full Moon in March** (1935) 105

from **Last Poems** (1936–1939) 108

Revision Questions 118

These Notes are based on the Pan edition of *W.B. Yeats: Selected Poetry*, but references are made to each individual poem, so the Notes may be used with any edition of the book