

1893

WHEN YOU ARE OLD

(From The Rose)

William Butler Yeats

Yeats, William Butler (1865-1939) - Irish poet and dramatist, widely considered one of the greatest English-speaking poets of the 20th century. He was a leader of the Irish Renaissance and later a devoted spiritualist. Yeats received the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1923. *When You are Old* (1893) - Opening lines:
When you are old and gray and full of sleep, / And nodding by the fire, take
down this book, ...

WHEN YOU ARE OLD

When you are old and gray 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.

THE END