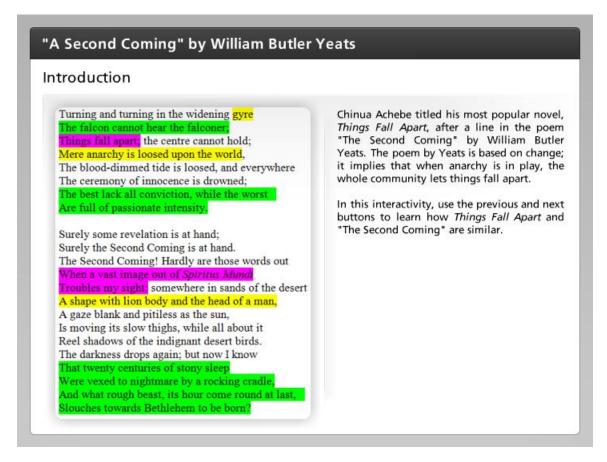
Introduction

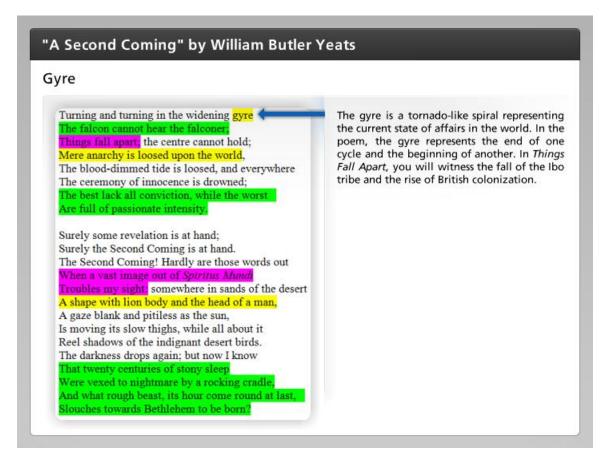


Chinua Achebe titled his most popular novel, *Things Fall Apart*, after a line the poem "The Second Coming" by William Butler Yeats. The poem by Yeats is based on changes and it implies that when anarchy is in play, the whole community lets things fall apart.

In this interactivity, use the previous and next buttons to navigate through the interactivity and to learn how *Things Fall Apart* and "The Second Coming" are similar.



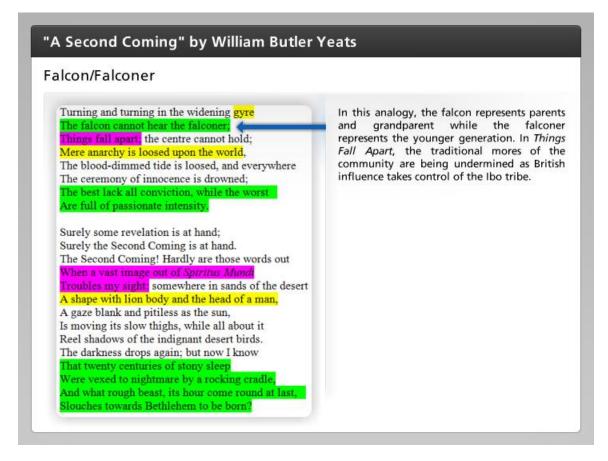
Gyre



The gyre is a tornado-like spiral representing the current state of affairs in the world. In the poem, the gyre represents the end of one cycle and the beginning of another. In *Things Fall Apart*, you will witness the fall of the Ibo tribe and the rise of British colonization.



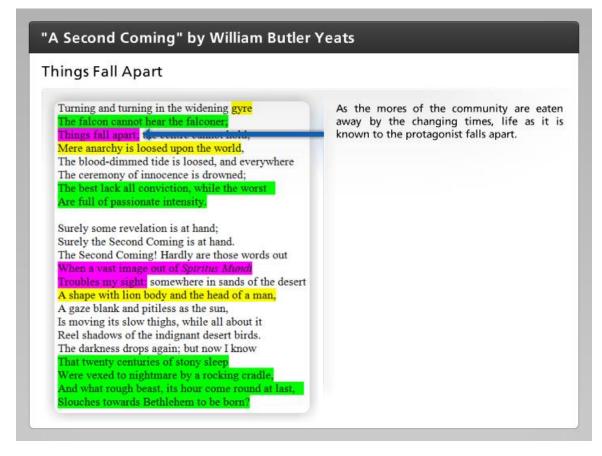
Falcon/Falconer



In this analogy, the falcon represents parents and grandparents, while the falconer represents the younger generation. In *Things Fall Apart*, the traditional mores of the community are being undermined as the British influence takes control of the Ibo tribe.



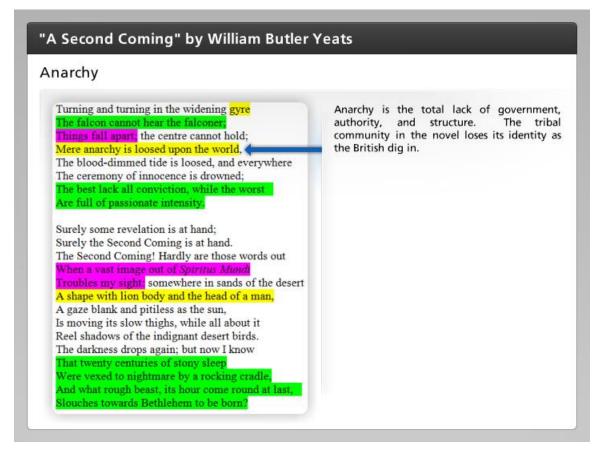
Things Fall Apart



As the mores of the community are eaten away by the changing times, life as it has been known falls apart.



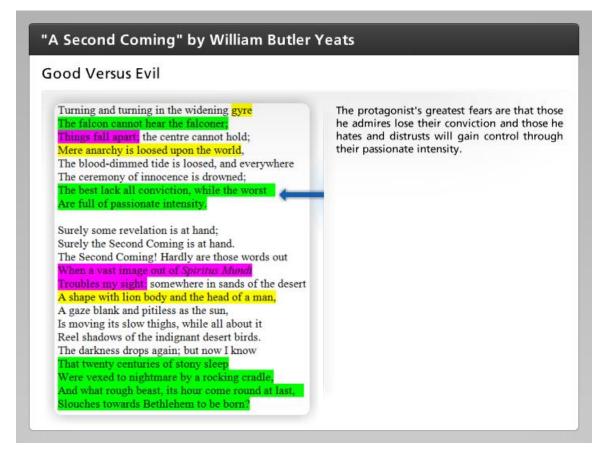
Anarchy



Anarchy is the total lack of government, authority and structure. The tribal community in the novel loses its identity as the British dig in.



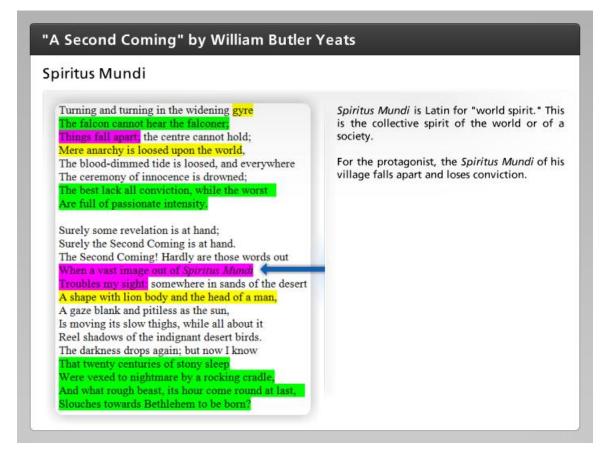
Good vs. Evil



The protagonist's greatest fear: those he admires lose their conviction and those he hates and distrusts will gain control through their passionate intensity.



Spiritus Mundi

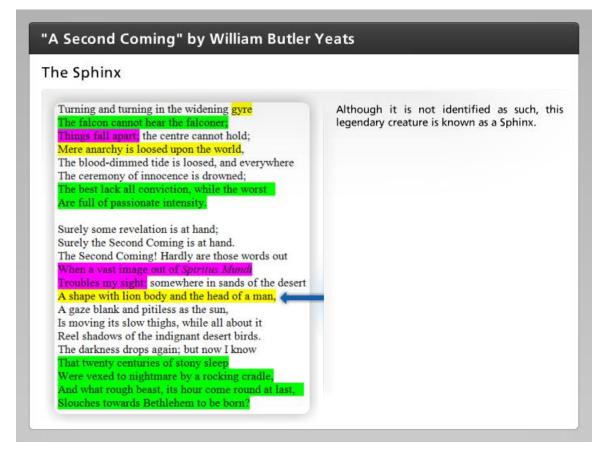


Spiritus Mundi is Latin for "world spirit." This is the collective spirit of the world or of a society.

For the protagonist, the Spiritus Mundi of his village falls apart and loses conviction.



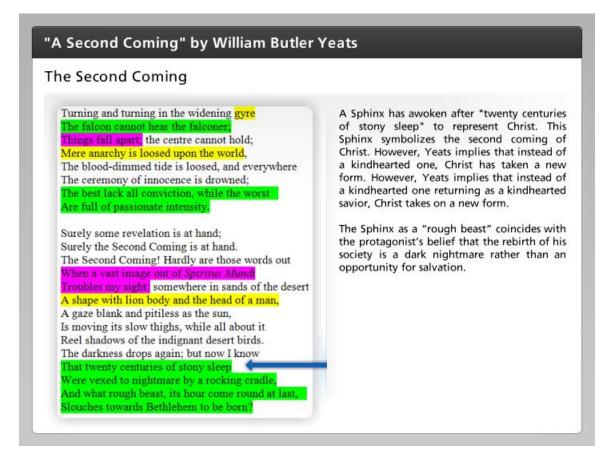
The Sphinx



Although it is not identified as such, this legendary creature is known as a sphinx.



The Second Coming



A sphinx has awoken after "twenty centuries of stony sleep" to represent Christ. This sphinx represents the second coming of Christ. However, Yeats implies that instead of a kindhearted one, Christ has taken a new form.

The sphinx as a "rough beast" coincides with the protagonist's belief that the rebirth of his society is a dark nightmare rather than an opportunity for salvation.

