

Name: _____ Block: _____

Date: _____

World Myths and Folktales: Stories of Human Kind

Section 1A: Apocalyptic Myths “The Second Coming” by William Butler Yeats Reflection & Assignment

Directions: Answer the following questions and complete the assignment that follows.

1. **(5 points)** How is Yeats’ poem different from the various stories of the world’s major religions as described in “How the World’s Religions View Apocalypticism” by Patrick Kiger?
2. **(5 points)** An aphorism is a pithy observation that contains a general truth (such as “If it ain’t broke, don’t fix it”). In lines 7-8, Yeats states: “The best lack all conviction, while the worst/Are full of passionate intensity.” How can this statement be seen as both an observation and as a warning?
3. **Assignment (20 points):** Yeats wrote this poem in 1919, after the end of World War I. “The Second Coming” foresees a terrible future based on the present. In the style of this poem (cause/effect), write a poem of your own that reflects a current conflict or issue in today’s world and the potential apocalyptic outcome if this conflict/issue is not resolved (10 points). Your poem must be two stanzas in length made up of at least 20 total lines (5 points), and contain an aphorism (5 points).

For inspiration, use your phone to scan the QR code below and check out the “Modern Doomsday Scenarios” slideshow presented by *National Geographic*!



To get more information on aphorisms and to see some examples, use the QR codes below!



Use a separate sheet of paper for your work and attach your assignment to this sheet before handing it in.