

Ún Shráid na Teamhrach
Tara Street Station
Sráid Uí Chonaill
O'Connell Street

Long Ard an Jeanie Johnston
Jeanie Johnston Tall Ship
Cearnóg na Canálach
Grand Canal Square
Amharclann Bord Gáis
Bord Gáis Energy Theatre

Convention Centre
Arena
Arena

Droichead Sheáin Uí
Chathasaigh
Sean O'Casey Bridge



READING THE POETRY OF PAULA MEEHAN

EXERCISES

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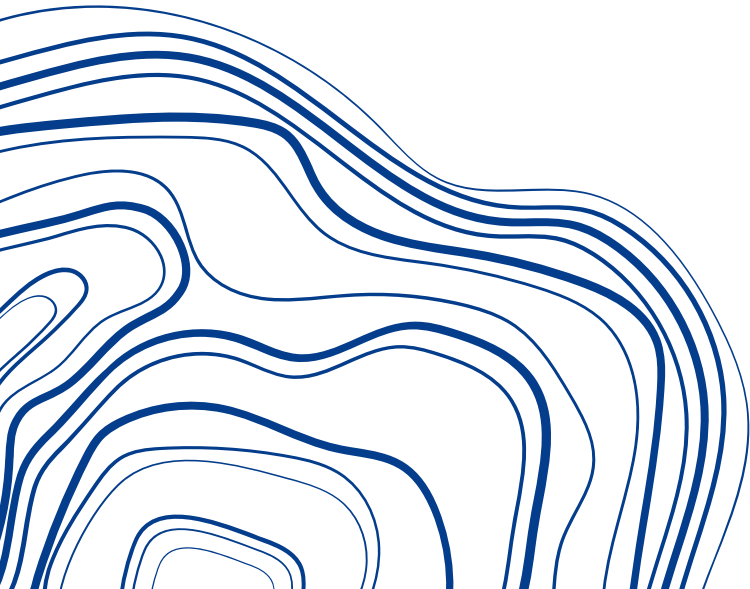


Exercise 1

Look up the poets mentioned in the “More poets from Ireland” section. Find some of their poems. Use the links provided above or other ones. You may also easily find these poets reading their poems.

These Irish women poets are now thought to be very important. Do you like their work? Find them interesting? Why do you think they’re seen as important? What can you say about the speakers that emerge from these poems? Are they autobiographical? Personal? Intimate? Universal?

Many people think that if a poet reads her/his poem aloud, that adds something to your experience of the poem. Do you agree?



Exercise 2

What are your associations with the words “machine,” “memory,” “honey”? “Synapses” and “DNA”? Would you associate “the wax hexagonals” and “mitochondrial DNA” with poetic language? Most people wouldn’t, but maybe they’re wrong. Pay attention to how those phrases sound.

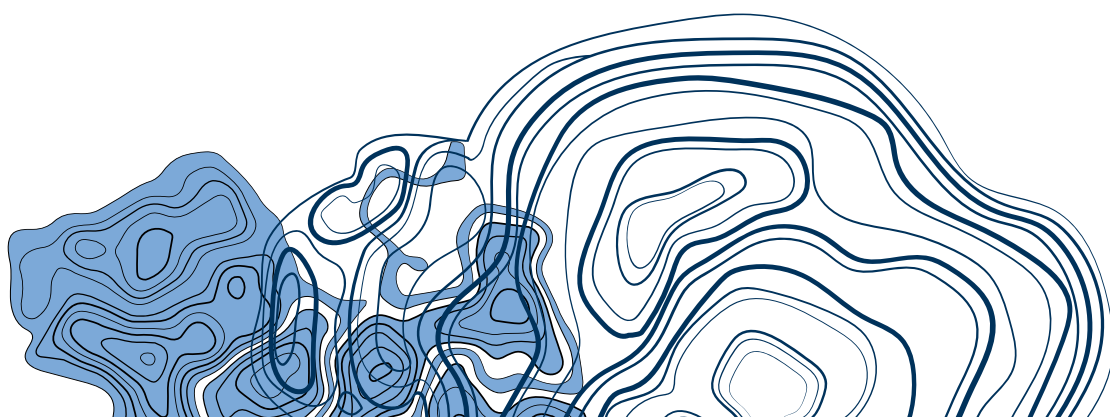




Exercise 3

Provide short answers to the following questions:

- Think (write notes) on the bear, the woman, honey, and memory.
- What does the speaker think about children?
- Why might she burn her books? One famous book-burner in English literature is Dr Faustus (in the play by Christopher Marlowe from the late 1500s), who tries to escape hell and eternal damnation by burning his books.
- Do you find solace or comfort in the poem? Why? Why not?



Exercise 4

- Can you find visual images that capture for you the meaning of the text?
- Write about this poem as a female poem.
- Can you make a film using images and sounds inspired by the poem? You might find a statue of Artemis (or Diana) in your home town, although you probably won't find a bear cub. How would Artemis view our telephones and our laptops? How would she view what we've done to nature?

Exercise 5

In the section "Paula Meehan on Dublin," the poet writes about her city and her grandmother, about the history of the city, and about its inhabitants. Write a poem or short story or a memory about your town, about a family member, about their history and appearance.

