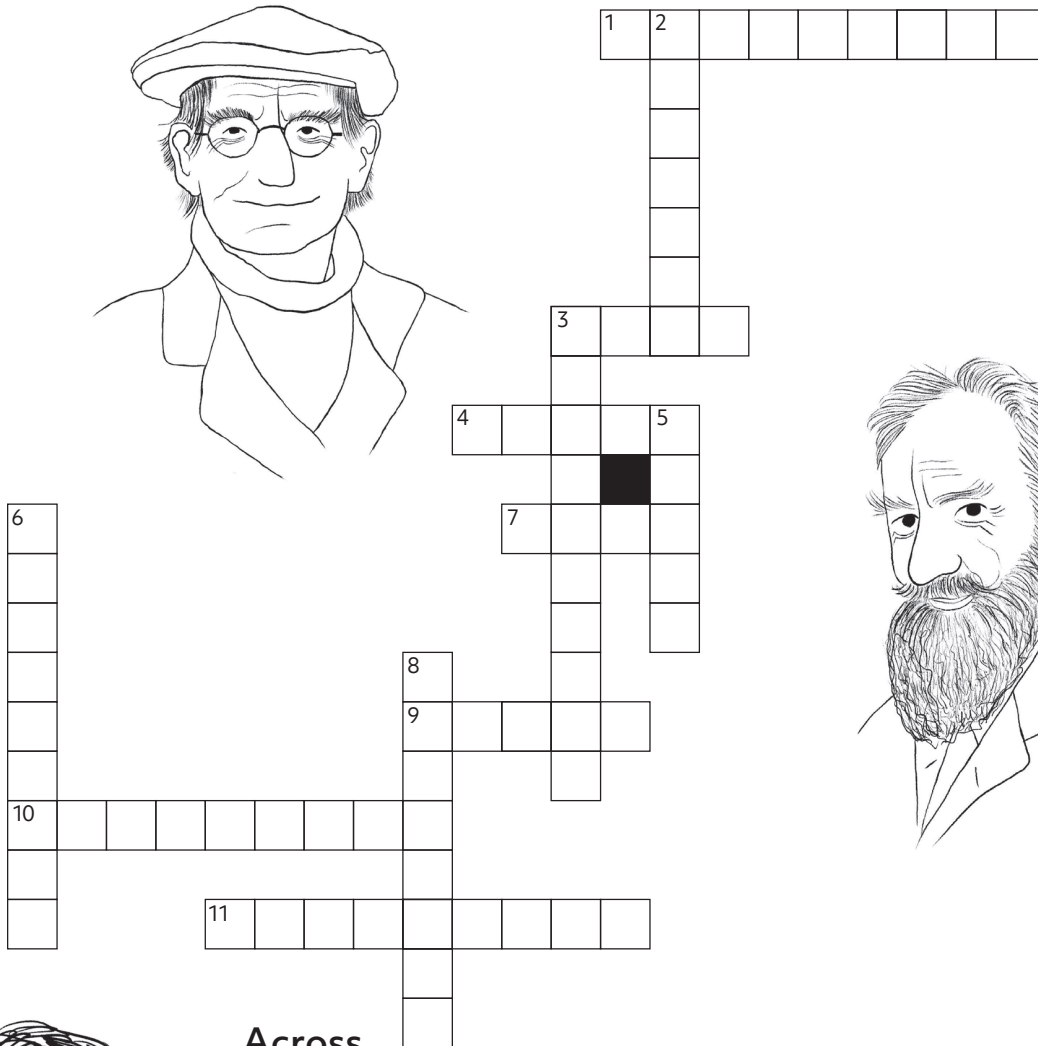
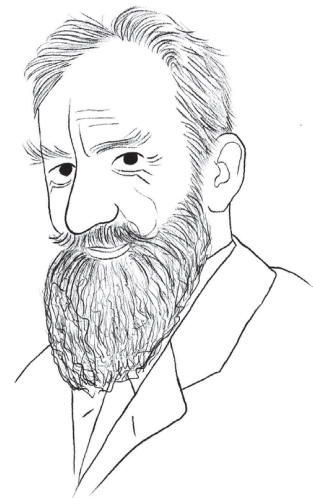


Lady Gregory Crossword Puzzle



Across

1. What treat did Lady Gregory give to the actors that she worked with? (4, 5)
3. Who cheated at 'Hunt the Thimble'? (surname only) (4)
4. Lady Gregory wrote a number of plays with which writer? (surname only) (5)
7. One of Lady Gregory's plays was called *The Rising of the _____* (4)
9. Lady Gregory helped to set up and run the _____ Theatre (5)
10. The _____ Tree is the name of the famous tree in the walled garden (9)
11. What was Nu's real name? (9)

Down

2. What was Lady Gregory's first name? (7)
3. Which playwright was fascinated by the trees in the Nut Wood? (full name) (4, 1, 5)
5. Who wrote the play that caused riots at the Abbey Theatre? (surname only) (5)
6. Where did Lady Gregory live? (5, 4)
8. Lady Gregory stepped in to play the role of _____ Ní Houlihan (8)

Name _____

Crossword Fact Sheet

Can you find all the clues hidden in the text below?



Augusta Gregory or Lady Gregory, to use her correct title, was born near Gort in Galway in 1852. Growing up, she loved stories and reading. As she got older, that love of reading became a passion for writing. She wrote about her childhood memories, she wrote down stories that she collected from people all over Galway and she also wrote poetry and plays.

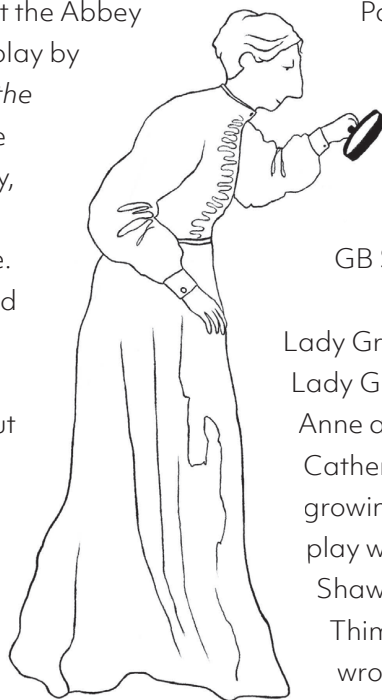
Lady Gregory was one of the people who set up Ireland's national theatre, the Abbey Theatre in Dublin. She worked hard to keep the theatre running – she even wrote lots of the plays that were performed on the Abbey stage. Some of the plays that Lady Gregory wrote were: *The Rising of the Moon*, *Spreading the News*, *The Dragon* and *Hyacinth Halvey*. Lady Gregory also helped other writers to get their plays on stage at the Abbey. The plays that were performed at the Abbey didn't always go smoothly – one play by JM Synge called *The Playboy of the Western World* caused riots in the theatre! To keep the actors happy, Lady Gregory regularly brought them a *huge* barm brack to share. She had these barm bracks baked specially near her home in Gort.

Lady Gregory cared deeply about helping other writers, not only playwrights (people who write plays), but poets too. She would invite writers to come to her home, Coole Park, and it quickly became a favourite writing spot for many of the

most famous Irish writers. Going to Coole Park inspired writers. Seán O'Casey, who lived in Dublin and hadn't seen many trees, was most impressed by the tall trees in the Nut Wood. Yeats most loved the flowering sedum plant in the walled garden and often wrote about Coole Lake.

Lady Gregory had a particularly strong relationship with Yeats. They even wrote some plays together to be performed in the Abbey, including the famous play *Cathleen Ní Houlihan*, which caused some people to join the fight for Ireland's independence. Lady Gregory wasn't an actor, but at one point she had to step in and play the title role of Cathleen Ní Houlihan when the actor playing the role couldn't get to the theatre on time!

To remember the writers who came to Coole Park, Lady Gregory would get them to carve the initials of their names into one of her favourite trees. This tree has become known as the Autograph Tree. Some of the famous writers who signed the tree are WB Yeats, JM Synge, GB Shaw and Seán O'Casey.



Lady Gregory's granddaughters grew up with Lady Gregory in Coole Park. Their names were Anne and Catherine, but everyone called Catherine by her nickname, Nu. They loved growing up in Coole Park. They would often play with the writers, especially George Bernard Shaw. He once cheated at a game of 'Hunt the Thimble' and to make it up to Anne and Nu he wrote them a poem!