

**Task 2:** Below you find a poem by Roger Casement called “The Irish Language” (undated).

Part 1: Read the poem carefully and then match the definitions to the correct terms on LearningApps.com.

## The Irish Language

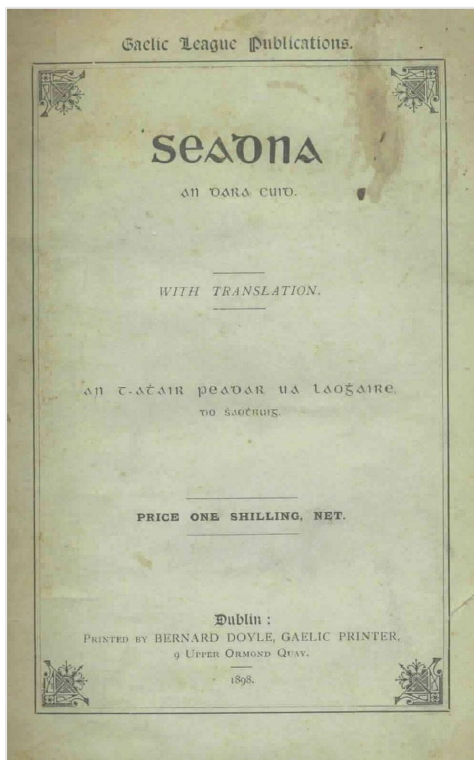
1                   IT is gone from the hill and the glen—  
2                    The strong speech of our sires ;  
3                    It is sunk in the mire and the fen  
4                    Of our nameless desires :  
5                We have bartered the speech of the Gael  
6                    For a tongue that would pay,  
7                    And we stand with the lips of us pale  
8                    And all bloodless to-day ;  
9                We have bartered the birthright of men  
10                  That our sons should be liars.  
11                It is gone from the hill and the glen,  
12                  The strong speech of our sires.  
  
13                Like the flicker of gold on the whin  
14                  That the Spring breath unites,  
15                It is deep in our hearts, and shall win  
16                  Into flame where it smites :  
17                It is there with the blood in our veins,

18                               With the stream in the glen,  
 19                               With the hill and the heath and the weans  
 20                               They shall *think* it again ;  
 21                               It shall surge to their lips and shall win  
 22                               The high road to our rights—  
 23                               Like the flicker of gold on the whin  
 24                               That the sun-burst unites.

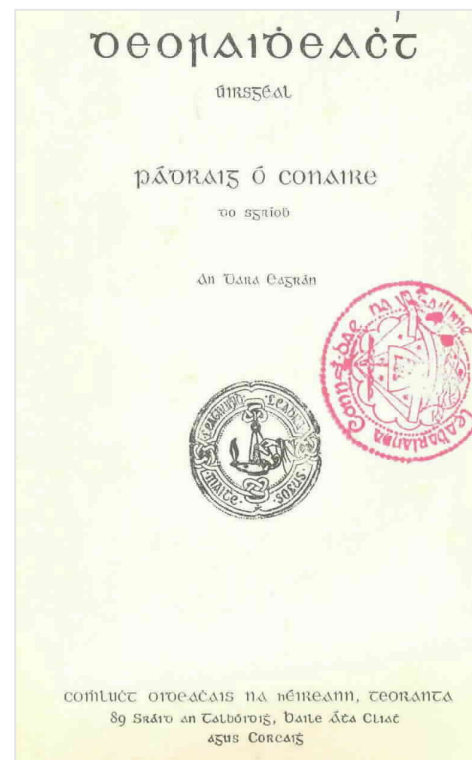
Part 2: Discuss in pairs.

How does the poem depict the Irish language? What do you think is its importance for an Irish national identity, especially considering how it frames the connection between the land and the body? You might also want to think about the form of the poem and the fact that this is a poem written in English.

*Two novels in Irish Gaelic (Gaeilge) attributed to the Gaelic revival.*



*Séadna* by Peadar Ó Laoghaire, 1904



*Deoraíocht* by Pádraic Ó Conaire, 1910