

The Fields of Athenry

By the lonely prison wall I heard a young girl calling,
Michael, they are taking you away,
For you stole Trevelyan's corn,
So the young might see the morn,
Now a prison ship lies waiting in the bay.

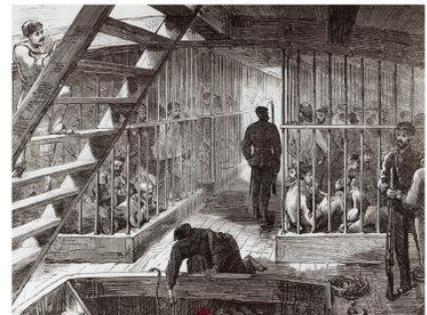


Chorus:

Low, lie the fields of Athenry,
Where once we watched the small free birds fly
Our love was on the wing,
We had dreams and songs to sing
It's so lonely round the fields of Athenry.



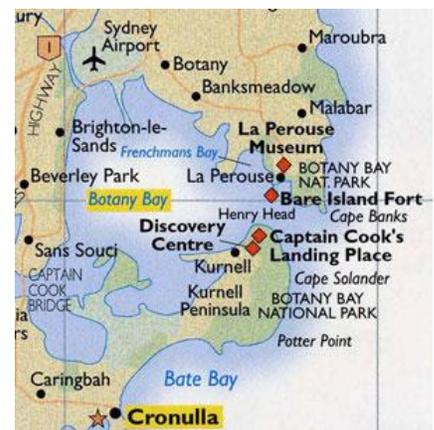
By a lonely prison wall I heard a young man calling,
Nothing matters Mary when you're free,
Against the Famine and the Crown,
I rebelled they ran me down,
Now you must raise our child with dignity.



Repeat Chorus

By a lonely harbour wall she watched the last star falling
And that prison ship sailed out against the sky
Sure she'll wait and hope and pray
For her love in Botany Bay,
It's so lonely round the fields of Athenry.

Repeat Chorus



The Fields of Athenry

The Fields of Athenry was written by Pete St. John in the 1970s. It tells the story of a young man who is caught stealing corn during the Irish Famine and who is deported to Botany Bay in Australia as punishment. The song is sung widely at sporting events when Ireland is playing. You can listen to the song online or perhaps your parents might sing it for you....

Questions:

1. Where in Ireland do you think the couple is from?

2. What are the first names of the couple in the song?

3. Why is the woman's husband in prison?

4. Why did he do this?

5. In what country is Botany Bay? _____

6. Do you think this was too harsh a punishment for the crime and why?
