**Notes—Unit 4**

**“Smells”**

**“Meeting at Night”**

**“Platero and I”**

* First paragraph in Spanish… Platero es pequeño, peludo, suave; tan blando por fuera, que se diría todo de algodón, que no lleva huesos. Sólo los espejos de azabache de sus ojos son duros cual dos escarabajos de cristal negro. Lo dejo suelto y se va al prado y acaricia tibiamente, rozándolas apenas, las florecillas rosas, celestes y gualdas... Lo llamo dulcemente: ¿Platero?, y viene a mí con un trotecillo alegre, que parece que se ríe, en no sé qué cascabeleo ideal..
* Note how much figurative language is used in this piece and how that gives the reader a much clearer picture that a simple description
* All of the attention on beauty sets the reader up to feel the death of Platero more keenly; even though the author does not speak directly of the loss that he felt, the reader senses the pain that he must have felt

**“The Oak”**

* A human life is compared to the seasons of an oak tree: youth to spring, summer to middle years; autumn to older; and winter to end of life
* When the leaves fall in the winter, the naked strength of the tree is revealed. What is the implication of this comparison for humans? (that who we truly are is revealed in our later years and especially after we die)

**“A Lonely Pine Is Standing”**

* Trees are personified—given the ability to stand, to sleep, to dream, to languish
* We are often like this tree, not? Looking/longing for a situation better than our own…

**“I Like to See It Lap the Miles”**

**“It Sifts from Leaden Sieves”**

* Why “leaden” sieves?

**“The Deserted House”**