

William Wordsworth, *I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud*

The following poem was inspired by an event occurred on 15 April 1802, when Wordsworth and his sister Dorothy, while walking in the Lake District, came across a 'long belt' of daffodils.

*I wandered lonely as a cloud
That floats on high o'er vales¹ and hills,
When all at once I saw a crowd,
A host², of golden daffodils;
Beside the lake, beneath the trees,
Fluttering and dancing in the breeze.*

*Continuous as the stars that shine
And twinkle³ on the milky way,
They stretched in never-ending line
Along the margin⁴ of a bay:
Ten thousand saw I at a glance,
Tossing⁴ their heads in sprightly dance.*

*The waves beside them danced; but they
Out-did⁵ the sparkling waves in glee⁶:
A poet could not but be gay,
In such a jocund company:
I gazed – and gazed – but little thought
What wealth⁷ the show to me had brought:*

*For oft, when on my couch I lie
In vacant or in pensive mood,
They flash upon that inward eye
Which is the bliss⁸ of solitude;
And then my heart with pleasure fills,
And dances with the daffodils.*

Glossary

1 valleys – 2 large number – 3 glimmer – 4 moving something back and forth – 5 surpassed – 6 happiness, joy – 7 richness – 8 supreme happiness



↓ TEXT COMPREHENSION AND ANALYSIS

Answer the following questions.

- 1 Focus on the first stanza and explain what happened to the poet.
- 2 Which human qualities are attributed to the daffodils in the second stanza?
- 3 What is the poet's reaction at this sight?
- 4 What do you think the "inward eye" refers to?
- 5 How would you describe the general mood of the poem?
- 6 List some of the rhetorical figures employed by the poet.

↓ VOCABULARY

Match each of the following terms with its definition.

- | | |
|-------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1 Wander | A With a lot of energy |
| 2 Breeze | B Edge |
| 3 Couch | C Walk without a particular purpose |
| 4 Gaze | D Light wind |
| 5 Sprightly | E Look at something for a long time |
| 6 Margin | F Sofa |

↓ WRITING

Romantic poets felt that people had to live in communion with nature. They found security and comfort in the beauty of natural things and in their endless cycles. Do you think it is possible to experience nature in this way today? Have you ever experienced something in the natural world that remained in your own "inward eye"? Write a short essay.