

Monday 8th March 2021

English: Poetry

LO: To read and understand the vocabulary in a poem.



Daffodils by William Wordsworth

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

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

The waves beside them danced; but they
Out-did the sparkling waves in glee:
A poet could not but be gay,
In such a jocund company:
I gazed—and gazed—but little thought
What wealth 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 bliss of solitude;
And then my heart with pleasure fills,
And dances with the daffodils.



Read the poem with your partner.

Do you like the poem? Why, why not?
Record this in your book.

I like this poem because...

Does it remind you of any other poems?

About the poet



William Wordsworth (1770-1850) was one of England's greatest poets. Wordsworth introduced a new style of poetry using language that appealed to ordinary people. His poems often portrayed his love of nature as well as his inner thoughts and feelings.

William Wordsworth was born on April 7, 1770, in Cumberland, England. He wrote poetry while he was at school and took a keen interest in the natural world. Wordsworth particularly enjoyed playing outdoors in the beautiful Lake District of northern England.

In 1797 Wordsworth and his sister Dorothy moved to Bristol. Wordsworth started to write the short, dramatic poems for which he is now best remembered.

Wordsworth and Coleridge produced a book of poetry, called *Lyrical Ballads*. The book contained poems written in a new and exciting way. They told stories of real people in a way that ordinary people would understand. Many of these poems were linked to themes of nature. The book was published in 1798 and is regarded as the beginning of the movement known as Romanticism in British poetry. Romantic works focused on emotions rather than reason. They also celebrated nature and the fantasy world of the imagination.

1799 Dorothy and William Wordsworth moved to Dove Cottage in Grasmere, in the Lake District. He wrote many of his best works there.



We
Do

Discuss the key points and make some bullet point notes. Write these in your books.

Glossary

O'er - over.

Host -a person who receives or entertains other people as guests,

Margin -edge or border of something.

Bay - an inlet of sea/lake where the land curves inwards or an indentation in hills/mountains (lake district).

Sprightly - full of youthful vibrant energy.

Gay - joyful and carefree.

Jocund - cheerful and light-hearted.

Oft - often.

Pensive - reflecting in deep or serious thought.

Solitude - alone.

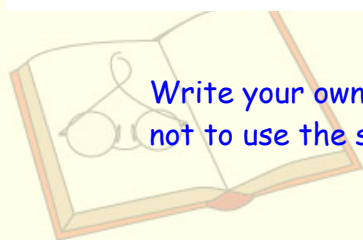
Read the below extract from Dorothy Wordsworth's diary entry. Compare the language in the extract to the language you see used in Daffodils.

I
Do

The inspiration for the poem came from a walk Wordsworth took with his sister around Glencoyne Bay, Ullswater, in the Lake District. Dorothy's journal entry describes the walk:

"When we were in the woods beyond Gowbarrow park we saw a few daffodils close to the water side, we fancied that the lake had floated the seed ashore and that the little colony had so sprung up – But as we went along there were more and yet more and at last under the boughs of the trees, we saw that there was a long belt of them along the shore, about the breadth of a country turnpike road. I never saw daffodils so beautiful they grew among the mossy stones about and about them, some rested their heads upon these stones as on a pillow for weariness & the rest tossed and reeled and danced and seemed as if they verily laughed with the wind that blew upon them over the Lake, they looked so gay ever dancing ever changing. This wind blew directly over the lake to them. There was here and there a little knot and a few stragglers a few yards higher up but they were so few as not to disturb the simplicity and unity and life of that one busy highway – We rested again and again. The Bays were stormy and we heard the waves at different distances and in the middle of the water like the Sea."

— Dorothy Wordsworth, *The Grasmere Journal* Thursday, 15 April 1802



Write your own description of a daffodil. Be as creative as you like. Try not to use the same words as Dorothy and William.

Read the below extract from Dorothy Wordsworth's diary entry. Compare the language in the extract to the language you see used in Daffodils. Use the text and our glossary to help you.

We
Do

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Write your own description of a daffodil. Be as creative as you like. Try not to use the same words as Dorothy and William.

- Describe a daffodil in as much detail as possible.
- Consider shape, size, colour, scent, general appearance and so on.

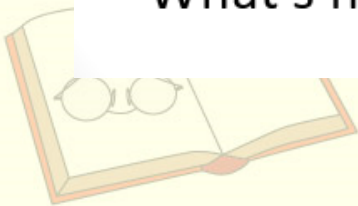
You
Do



Read the description of two other people in your class who are sat on the opposite side of the room. Are their descriptions similar to yours? Why?

In your books write an explanation of how and why William Wordsworth has been inspired by nature and his sisters words in her diary and compare how you described your daffodil.

- Why do you think Wordsworth described the daffodils in such detail?
- Do you think the daffodils have a special meaning for him?
- Did he realise when he saw the daffodils that they would have such a strong effect on him?
- What's his "inward eye"?



Listen to a reading of the poem:

 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1Uv80xQejrg>

