

## Tea Time: William Wordsworth

post written by Wende

William Wordsworth was born in England on April 7, 1770. His love for poetry was firmly established while he was in grammar school. While a boy, both William's mother and father died, leaving him and his four siblings orphans. This life experience, as well as a walking tour he took of Europe during college, heavily influenced his poetry. He believed that poetry should be written for the "common man", using everyday speech. By 1805 Wordsworth wrote his most famous work, *The Prelude*. The poem, which Wordsworth wrote about his spiritual life, marked the birth of a new genre of poetry, English romanticism. Although Wordsworth worked on *The Prelude* throughout his life, the poem was published after his death on April 23, 1850.



In honor of Springtime, featured here is William Wordsworth's poem,

### *Daffodils*

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 a sprightly dance.

The waves beside them danced, but they  
Outdid the sparkling waves in glee;  
A poet could not be but 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.

### **Extend Your Learning**

Read: *Poetry for Young People, William Wordsworth*

Recite or memorize the poem “Daffodils”

Record what you learn about Wordsworth on the notebooking page.

Analyze “Daffodils” using the study questions.

### **Tea Time Treat**

For your tea time treat, why not help your children make a [Daffodil Cake](#)?

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## *Daffodils*

By William Wordsworth

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And dances with the daffodils.





***Daffodils* by William Wordsworth**

First Stanza

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.

***Daffodils* by William Wordsworth**

Second Stanza

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 a sprightly dance.

***Daffodils* by William Wordsworth**

Third Stanza

The waves beside them danced, but they

Outdid the sparkling waves in glee;

A poet could not be but gay

In such a jocund company;

I gazed—and gazed—but little thought

What wealth the show to me had brought.

***Daffodils* by William Wordsworth**  
Fourth Stanza

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.



**Daffodils**  
**By William Wordsworth**

First Stanza

*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.*

**Daffodils**  
**By William Wordsworth**

Second Stanza

*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 a sprightly dance.*

**Daffodils**  
**By William Wordsworth**

Third Stanza

*The waves beside them danced, but they*

*Outdid the sparkling waves in glee;*

*A poet could not be but gay*

*In such a jocund company;*

*I gazed—and gazed—but little thought*

*What wealth the show to me had brought.*

**Daffodils**  
**By William Wordsworth**

Fourth Stanza

*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.*

***Daffodils***  
**by William Wordsworth**

***Study Notes***

Define:

Host: \_\_\_\_\_

Sprightly: \_\_\_\_\_

Jocund: \_\_\_\_\_

Pensive: \_\_\_\_\_

Solitude: \_\_\_\_\_

Inward eye: \_\_\_\_\_

Interpret:

Explain why the poet's heart fills with pleasure.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Examine:

Look at the individual elements of the poem. Give examples of the following:

Simile - a comparison using the words "like" or "as"

\_\_\_\_\_

Personification - when the writer gives human like qualities to a non-human

\_\_\_\_\_

Assonance - the repetition of vowel sounds in neighboring words

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Evaluate:

The value of a poem is determined by the impact it has on its reader. How does this poem make you feel?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## Study Notes Answers

### □ Define:

- Host: a great number or multitude  
Sprightly: lively; brisk; vigorous  
Jocund: merry; lively; airy; sportive  
Pensive: thoughtful and sad; sorrowful; depression of mind  
Solitude: loneliness; remoteness from society  
Inward eye: mind's eye; thoughtful vision within the mind or soul

### □ Interpret:

Explain why the poet's heart fills with pleasure.

Answers will vary. Should include that the visual memory of the lively, cheerful daffodils pulls the writer out of his depressed mood.

### □ Examine:

Look at the individual elements of the poem. Give examples of the following:

Simile - a comparison using the words "like" or "as"

I wandered lonely as a cloud  
Continuous as the stars that shine

Personification - when the writer gives human like qualities to a non-human

Daffodils said to have heads and to dance

Assonance - the repetition of vowel sounds in neighboring words

A host of golden daffodils  
Beside the lake, beneath the trees  
Which is the bliss of solitude  
And dances with the daffodils

### □ Evaluate:

The value of a poem is determined by the impact it has on its reader. How does this poem make you feel?

Answers will vary.