

I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud

by William Wordsworth, 1807

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.

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:

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.

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.

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LO: To engage with a poem

- What do you think the poem is about?
- What do you think the poet's emotions and feeling were?

I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud (1807) by William Wordsworth

'I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud' (or 'Daffodils' as it is more commonly known) is a lyric poem (one that reflects the poet's emotions and feelings, as opposed to telling a story) and represents Wordsworth's response to the beauty of nature. The poem recalls a moment when Wordsworth and his sister, Dorothy, were walking near Grasmere in the English Lake District and describes the movement of daffodils on the banks of the lake.

What do you know about William Wordsworth?

Go and do some research - 15 minutes



Did you know?



- William Wordsworth was born in Cockermouth in Cumbria in 1770.
- He went to school in Hawkshead in the Lake District and there began to develop his love for poetry. His desk, into which he carved his initials, is still visible today in the museum that is housed in the original school house.
- He was one of the major Romantic Poets of his age and much of his work was inspired by nature and the natural world. Romantic Poets were named after the Romantic literary movement, which emphasised emotion, nature and individuality. This movement was most powerful at the end of the 18th century and the beginning of the 19th century.
- One of his most famous poems is 'The Prelude', a semi-autobiographical account of his early life.
- He was one of a group of poets who became known as the Lake Poets. The other members of the group were Samuel Taylor Coleridge and Robert Southey.
- Wordsworth spent days roaming the fells in the Lake District, taking inspiration for his poems from his surroundings.
- He became Poet Laureate in 1843, a position he had initially refused, saying he was too old.
- He died in 1850 and is buried in Grasmere in Cumbria.

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- Listen and read at the same time
- Highlight any words you are unsure of
- Use a dictionary to check them

O-er

vales

a host

margin

a glance

sprightly

out-did

gay

jocund

oft

vacant

pensive

bliss

solitude