

You Explain!

Name: _____

Explanations



I Wandered Lonely As A Cloud

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 leaves 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:

In the first stanza the speaker describes a time when he wandered over the valleys and hills, "lonely as a cloud." Then he came across a crowd of daffodils stretching out over almost everything he could see, "fluttering and dancing in the breeze".

In the second stanza the speaker further describes the daffodils. They reminded him of the Milky Way, because there were so many flowers together and they seemed to be never-ending. The speaker guesses that there were ten thousand daffodils, which were "Tossing their heads in sprightly dance".

In the third stanza the speaker compares the waves of the lake to the waves of daffodils and decides that even though the lake sparkles, the daffodils win because they have more "glee." He then states that he, like any other poet, could not help but be happy "in such a jocund company." He clearly looked at the scene for a long time, but yet he was unable to understand what he had gained from the experience.

U NEED VERSE!

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.

by William Wordsworth

In the fourth and final stanza the poet describes what he gained from the experience. At times when he is lonely or feeling "pensive," he remembers the daffodils, seeing them with his "inward eye," and this makes him feel happy and content.

General:

"I wandered lonely as a cloud" takes place in the Lake District of Northern England. The area is famous for its many lakes, beautiful expanses of springtime daffodils, and for being home to the "Lakeland Poets": William Wordsworth, Samuel Coleridge, and Robert Southey.

This poem is very popular because of its simple yet beautiful rhythms and rhymes, and its gentle message. The poem consists of four six-line stanzas, each of which follow an ababcc rhyme scheme.

By comparing himself to a cloud in the first line of the poem, the speaker suggests his close relationship with the nature that surrounds him. He also shows this connection by personifying the daffodils several times, even calling them a "crowd" as if they are a group of people. Even though the speaker is unable to appreciate the worth of the experience as he stands in the field, he later realises the worth that it has in sad and lonely moments.

