

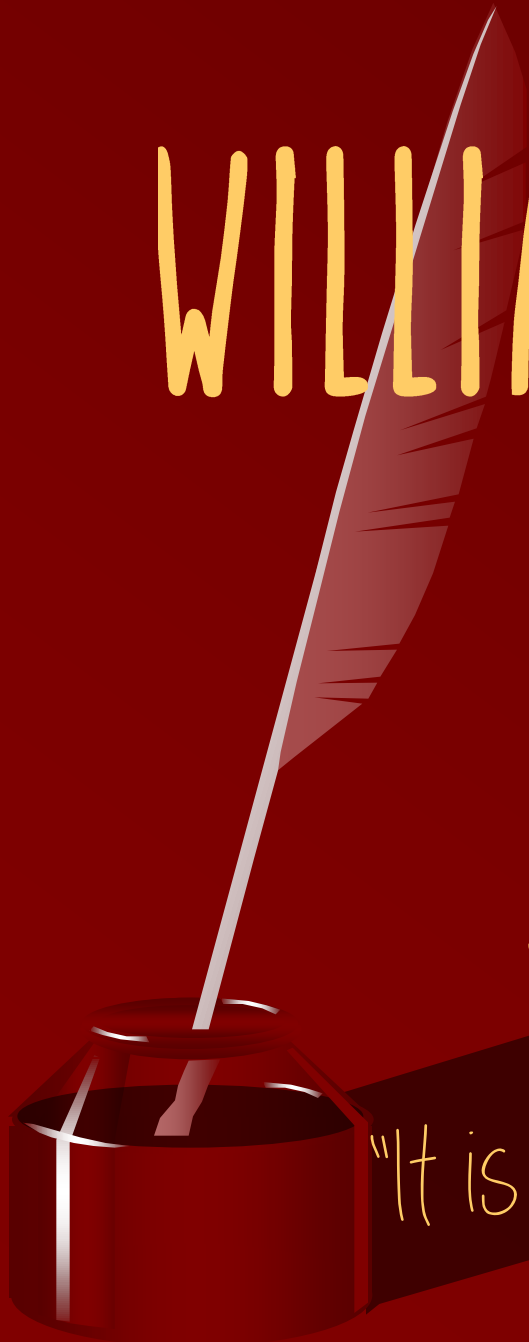
WILLIAM WORDSWORTH

1770- 1850

"I Wandered Lonely As a Cloud"

"The World Is Too Much with Us"

"It is a Beauteous Evening, Calm and free"



WORDSWORTH

- Born in the Lake District of Northern England (countryside)
- Mother died when he was 8, father died five years later
- Contributed to the aimlessness of his youth and young manhood.
- Went to Cambridge
- Poems focused on common life
- Appointed Poet Laureate in 1843



WORDSWORTH

- Defined poetry as “the spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings” that “takes its origin from emotion recollected in tranquility”
 - Unconventional idea at the time
 - Now seems to be a self-evident and permanent truth



GROUP WORK –

EACH GROUP WILL BE ASSIGNED A QUESTION

445

GAM # 1,2 – DS #2

451

GAM 4,5,8,9,10 – DS #6



I WANDERED LONELY AS A CLOUD

Daffodils

- The speaker spontaneously responds to the sight of the daffodils with a feeling of delight and gladness



I WANDERED LONELY AS A CLOUD

Unexpected Effect of Experience

- Speaker finds that the memory of this scene often returns to him
 - Renews the delight that he felt originally
 - Dispels his “vacant” or “pensive mood”



I WANDERED LONELY AS A CLOUD

Personification

- Daffodils
 - “a crowd/ A host”
 - “dancing in the breeze”
 - “tossing their heads”
 - “they/ Outdid the sparkling waves in glee”
 - “jocund company”



I WANDERED LONELY AS A CLOUD

Personification

- Purpose:
 - Emphasizes the joyful dancing impression that they give
- Because the personifications expresses the intense emotions that the sight of the flowers inspires in the speaker, it is justified here, as “prompted by passion”

THE WORLD IS TOO MUCH WITH US

World and Nature

- Line 2 – indicates that in this sonnet, **world** refers to the business world (opposed to the world of nature)
- The world can be “too much with us” if people are so absorbed by getting and spending that they have no time for observing and responding to the forces of nature



THE WORLD IS TOO MUCH WITH US

“Pagan”

- Speaker believes he would be more responsive to nature as a pagan
- Believes that pagans see supernatural forces in such aspects of nature as the sea and the wind



THE WORLD IS TOO MUCH WITH US

Allusion

- The allusion to Proteus and Triton closely links the sea with the supernatural and spiritual
- Description of the mythological events of Proteus rising from the sea and Triton blowing his horn (although appealing to the imagination) are in sharp contrast to the barren image of the world as “getting and spending”

IT IS A BEAUTEOUS EVENING, CALM AND FREE

Octave vs. Sestet

- Both parts of the sonnet describe an attitude of perfect but completely natural and unselfconscious tranquility that comes from feeling at one with the supernatural



IT IS A BEAUTEOUS EVENING, CALM AND FREE

Speaker vs. Child

- Speaker

- not only deeply moved by the experience, but also reflections on it

- Child

- Walks along, apparently “untouched by solemn thought”



IT IS A BEAUTEOUS EVENING, CALM AND FREE

Lines 6 -8

Listen! The mighty Being is awake,
And doth with his eternal motion make
A sound like thunder — everlastingly.

- Continuous noise of the breaking waves

