

# Daffodils by William Wordsworth

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## A Critical Analysis of the Poem

In this poem, which reads like a piece of memory etched deep into the poet's heart, praises the beauty of the daffodils which leaves a lasting impression on him. Divided into four stanzas, the poem deals with the subjects of nature and memory, which were close to the hearts of all the Romantic poets. The style of poetic expression as well as diction employed by the poet is lucid and uncomplicated, bearing a kind of musical eloquence. The four stanzas, containing six lines each, follow a ~~quattro~~ quatrain-couplet rhyme scheme: ababcc. Each line is metred with Iambic Tetrameter.

The poem narrates the subjective experience of the poet which he had collected while walking through the hills and valleys. He was lonely. Suddenly, as he passed a lake, he noticed a cluster of yellow daffodils waving in the breeze. The poet's loneliness was replaced by the sheer joy of seeing this lovely spectacle and its impact was powerful enough to become a piece of memory that he would love to recollect fondly as a great gift of joy from nature. Now, whenever he feels depressed, he would just call in his memory to find back the joy of existence.

At the beginning of the poem the poet compares his movement with clouds that are floating alone over the hills and valleys. This idea of being alone is contradicted by the word 'crowd' in the third line of the first stanza. This particular word has been deliberately used by the poet as he intended to use Personification to provide

those flowers by bestowing human qualities on them.

The characterization of the sudden occurrence of a memory - the daffodils 'flash upon the inward eye' which is regarded as 'the bliss of solitude' - is psychologically acute, but the brilliance of the poem lies in the reverse personification of its early stanzas. The speaker compares himself metaphorically to a natural object, a piece of cloud, as comprehended by - 'I wandered lonely as a cloud / That floats on high over vales and hills' and daffodils are continually personified as human beings, dancing and 'tossing their heads' in a 'crowd, a host'. This technique implies an inherent unity between man and nature, making it one of Wordsworth's most basic and effective methods for instilling in the reader the feeling, the poet so often describes himself as experiencing.

Nature permeates the entire poem. Phrases like 'a crowd, a host... continuous as the stars... they stretched in never-ending lines... ten thousand saw I at a glance' present deep implications of nature's extensiveness. Daffodils, an everyday found flower, has been portrayed in magical verses and blended with transcendental romanticism that leaves an everlasting mark in the minds of the readers of this poem.