

William Wordsworth (1770-1850)

Name:

***My Heart Leaps Up* (1802)**

My heart leaps up when I behold
A rainbow in the sky:
So was it when my life began;
So is it now I am a man;
So be it when I shall grow old, 5
Or let me die!
The Child is father of the Man;
And I could wish my days to be
Bound each to each by natural piety.

piety – goodness, faithfulness, holiness

1. What literary technique is used in the phrase “heart leaps?”
2. **Anaphora** is a form of parallelism in which the author repeats a specific word or expression at the beginning of successive phrases, clauses, sentences, or verses, especially for rhetorical or poetic effect. How do lines 3-5 employ anaphora, and what meaningful effects does this technique create?
3. “The Child is the father of the Man” is an example of a **paradox**. How is this statement contradictory? What does it mean? What “sense” does it make? How does it relate to the concept of “*natural* piety”?

***I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud* (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, 5
Fluttering and dancing in the breeze.

o'er – over **vales** – valleys

host – multitude, horde

Continuous as the stars that shine
And twinkle on the milky way,
They stretched in never-ending line
Along the margin of a bay: 10
Ten thousand saw I at a glance,
Tossing their heads in sprightly dance.

The waves beside them danced; but they
Out-did the sparkling waves in glee:
A poet could not but be gay, 15
In such a jocund company:
I gazed—and gazed—but little thought
What wealth the show to me had brought:

gay – joyful
jocund – lighthearted, joking

For oft, when on my couch I lie
In vacant or in pensive mood, 20
They flash upon that inward eye
Which is the bliss of solitude;
And then my heart with pleasure fills,
And dances with the daffodils.

oft – often
bliss – happiness, paradise, pleasure

What is the speaker’s attitude toward the daffodils and their significance?
Which specific literary techniques are most important in conveying the speaker’s attitude?

The Tables Turned

(1798)

Up! up! my Friend, and quit your books;
Or surely you'll grow double:
Up! up! my Friend, and clear your looks;
Why all this toil and trouble?

The sun above the mountain's head,
A freshening lustre mellow
Through all the long green fields has spread,
His first sweet evening yellow.

Books! 'tis a dull and endless strife:
Come, hear the woodland linnet,
How sweet his music! on my life,
There's more of wisdom in it.

And hark! how blithe the throstle sings!
He, too, is no mean preacher:
Come forth into the light of things,
Let Nature be your teacher.

She has a world of ready wealth,
Our minds and hearts to bless—
Spontaneous wisdom breathed by health,
Truth breathed by cheerfulness.

One impulse from a vernal wood
May teach you more of man,
Of moral evil and of good,
Than all the sages can.

Sweet is the lore which Nature brings;
Our meddling intellect
Mis-shapes the beauteous forms of things:—
We murder to dissect.

Enough of Science and of Art;
Close up those barren leaves;
Come forth, and bring with you a heart
That watches and receives.

Questions

1. Where does Wordsworth use **apostrophe** in the poem? Why is this technique significant to the poem's impact and meaning?
2. Lines 5-8 employ **inverted syntax**. Rearrange the syntax so that the verb comes right after the subject. What exactly is this sentence communicating?
3. Is *the fundamental unit of meaning* in this poem the line or the sentence? Explain.
4. The term "**didactic**" is used to describe a literary work that *intends to teach a specific moral lesson or provide a model for proper behavior*. Is this poem **didactic**, or not? How can we tell?