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An In Depth Look Into "Tintern Abbey"

"Lines composed a few miles above Tintern Abbey" is a monologue written in 1798 by William Wordsworth. It's about Wordsworth reflecting on the past in a particular place called "Wye Valley" (Pearson pg.195) five years ago. During this time Wordsworth reflects over what the area was like, who was there and how he felt being there. Along with this he includes many memories of the place. I put his thoughts and words into a vertically scrolling website to allow the reader to feel closer to what Wordsworth did with images of his surroundings, music and words instead of just plain words.

In the beginning he recalls the area and how it has an affect on him: in particular the scenery , "mountain-springs.. the steep and lofty cliffs" (Wordsworth lines 3-5), makes him feel secluded and sad. The poem uses a lot of words with a dark connotation to show the reader that he is in a darker time like "secluded", "Vagrant", "Hermit", "silence", but I felt it was difficult to stay on track with the mood of the poem. When reading this poem, it's very easy to get lost in the words that a person can even ignore what it's saying. So during this time I tried to create a secluded feeling using dark cliffs from Wye Valley and slow soft music. I hoped that by adding in imagery behind the words a reader will pick up quicker on the tone and mood of the poem and

I feel it did affect how a reader understood the poem. The backgrounds weren't exactly where Wye Valley was, but it was an accurate description of what Wordsworth described.

As the poem continues on the mood shifts, in the next two sections he describes what the distinction he feels from the city compared to these woods outside. He uses plain simple words here again to describe that the city feels crowded and clustered, but when in these situations of no peace he turns to the memories of the Wye. These memories fill him with tranquility and restored the peace in his mind. Even when he wasn't thinking of these unremembered memories, they still influenced his decisions such as "His little, nameless, unremembered, acts Of kindness and of love." (Wordsworth lines 35-36) so that subconsciously he feels these woods made in him into a kinder person.

The portion Wordsworth describes how he changed from the past till now. In the past Wordsworth was doing what any child would do in the woods : "[R]oe I bounded o'er the mountains, by the sides Of the deep rivers, and the lonely streams," (Wordsworth lines 51-54) it is interesting how he compares himself to a "roe". Pearson says "The simple answer to this question is that Wordsworth's similes come directly from the biblical Song of Songs" (Pearson pg.197). This is interesting and one of the only things I found that had a more complex meaning behind it. It's as if Wordsworth not only uses this as a simile, but also alludes that he himself is the roe bounding over the mountains.

The only other biblical reference would have been how his dear friend is buried yet can still have emotions, this is in the last section where I put scenes that matched a more relaxing, happy and calm place to match his emotion. Wordsworth prays to Nature that it always kept their thoughts happy and aloof, never giving into bad tongues or harsh words. I thought this part was

the victory in the poem because Wordsworth now feels he will be safe and knows that his dear friend, no matter what she is feeling, will remember that this memory to heal her and if he dies then she will remember how much he loved Nature. I thought this was the perfect way to end with a nice image of something that represented victory.

From doing this project, I have found that Wordsworth didn't use an extensive vocabulary or complex words to describe what he felt, he merely spoke from the heart and that was enough for him to demonstrate what he felt. He didn't try to convey complex ideas, but rather simple ones such as feeling secluded when he in woods or feeling content and happy when he realized he wasn't alone, that his dear friend was there with him all along. Doing this project was a lot of fun and also a lot of debugging since i'm not the most experienced at creating a website. I created this website from scratch (Raw HTML,CSS,JS) because I wanted to put two something I felt passionate about and tie it in to this poem and found that it was the simple things in this project like creating the elements and sections that related to how Wordsworth displayed his thoughts and ideas. It wasn't the music that made the . I felt that doing it this way made me really look at his words in small chunks rather than big pieces and it helped me understand what he was trying to say when he said "That after many wanderings, many years Of absence, these steep woods and lofty cliffs, And this green pastoral landscape, were to me More dear, both for themselves and for thy sake!" (Wordsworth lines 159-162), that his dear friend will remember that these woods meant a lot to Wordsworth because his dear friend is in them. So I felt this project was a success in helping me understand Wordsworth poem and creating a decent looking website from scratch.

Works cited:

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Link to creative project : www.michaelibanez.org