Sam Sussman

DS: Literature

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Professor Jan Hagens

“Lines Written in Early Spring” – The reason why I really enjoyed this poem is because it beautifully blends man into Nature and still allows the reader to see that man and Nature are wholly separate. The first quartet starts out with a jovial tone, as would be expected by a poem written about spring. But Spring is qualified in the title – it isn’t completely beautiful, it still has remnants of the winter. In this sense, the narrator cannot fully enjoy the season, hence the “sad thoughts” that come at the end of an otherwise positive quartet. This quartet begins the blending seen in the poem, not drawing a significant distinction between the happy and the sad, both being called “thoughts.” This blending continues in the second quartet, when Wordsworth writes, “her fair works did Nature link The human soul that through me ran.” In these lines, Wordsworth blurs the boundary of the narrator’s body and nature and ascribes motion and change to his soul. This blending is necessary because it allows the reader to sympathize with the narrator in the grove; it allows the reader to feel pity for man that is removed from Nature. The poem goes on to establish that everything that takes part in Nature enjoys it. This belief, is what must make him “lament What man has made of man.” The removal from Nature, the imposition placed on mankind in a society is unshakable. Even in the midst of this beauty, the narrator cannot have the same pleasure that the birds, the flowers or even the twigs have.