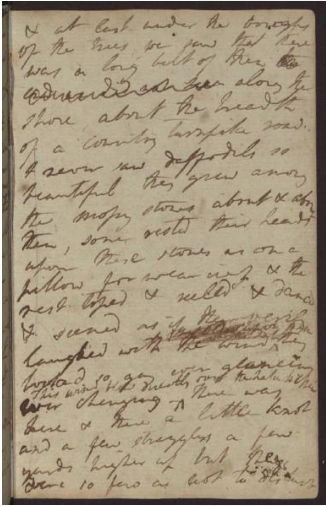




I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud also known as *Daffodils* is one of William Wordsworth's famous poems and a quintessential text of the Romantic period. It was initially composed in 1804 after the poet's visit two years earlier in one part of England's Lake District with his sister Dorothy, also a poet. Dorothy wrote about this ordinary encounter with nature in one of her journals. She fancied the rows of flowers and described them with awe:

When we were in the woods beyond Gowbarrow park we saw a few daffodils close to the water side, we fancied the lake had floated the seed ashore and that the little colony had so sprung up – But as we went along there were more and yet more and at last under the boughs of the trees, we saw that there was a long belt of them along the shore, about the breadth of a country turnpike road. I never saw daffodils so beautiful they grew among the mossy stones about and about them, some rested their heads upon these stones as on a pillow for weariness and the rest tossed and reeled and danced and seemed as if they verily laughed with the wind that blew upon them over the Lake, they looked so gay ever glancing ever changing. (Wordsworth)



Note: Kindly read the annotations below.

I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud

By William Wordsworth

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,
Fluttering and dancing in the breeze.

Continuous as the stars that shine
And twinkle on the milky way,
They stretched in never-ending line
Along the margin of a bay:
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,
In such a jocund company:
I gazed—and gazed—but little thought
What wealth the show to me had brought:

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

Commented [ratdizon1]: The speaker walks alone. They compare themselves to nature. This comparison is reversed in the next few lines as daffodils are personified instead.

Commented [ratdizon2]: Daffodils are not the only subject but nature in general. The general landscape of natural life draws in the speaker.

Commented [ratdizon3]: The speaker shows change in mood. Slowly, they drift away from loneliness.

Commented [ratdizon4]: A shift in tense and the explicit mention of "remembrance" brings us to present. We realize the speaker remembers an actual experience while they are in pensive mood. This conscious effort to think about the past and to use one's imagination to unite with nature are instrumental in the poet's agenda.

Commented [ratdizon5]: The state of being happy with nature is solidified in the end. No longer do we hear the poet speak about loneliness. In fact, the solitude in the last stanza is not the same state as the loneliness in the first. The speaker is at peace with nature.