



**CLASS IX**  
**ADDITIONAL ENGLISH**  
**CHAPTER 2 - THE DAFFODILS**  
**WILLAM WORDSWORTH**

**SOLUTIONS**

**Answer the following questions**

1. **Where were the daffodils growing?**

Ans: The daffodils were growing by the side of a lake.

2. **How many daffodils did the poet see?**

Ans: The poet saw a large number of daffodils. He saw nearly ten thousand flowers at one look.

3. **When two words end in the same sound, they are said to rhyme.**

The word “Cloud” and “Crowd” in lines 1 and 3 rhyme; so do the words “Hill” and “Daffodils.” If we show one pair of rhyme as “a” another as “b” and so on the rhyme scheme of the first stanza of the poem will be a b a b c c. Can you find the rhyme schemes of the other 3 stanzas?

Ans: The poem contains four stanzas of six lines each (Sestets). In each stanza, the rhyme scheme is ab ab cc, ending with a rhyming couplet. The poet structures the content of the poem by focusing the first three stanzas on the experience at the lake and the last stanza on the memory of the experience

**COMPOSITION**

1. **Write in prose, a paraphrase of the first stanza of the poem.**

Ans: When I went for a walk, I felt like I was a cloud, floating above the hills and valleys below. Suddenly I saw a huge number of daffodils, right beside a lake and under some trees. The waves in the bay also seemed to dance, but the daffodils looked happier. A poet couldn't avoid being happy in such circumstances.



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**2. Do the same for the remaining stanzas.**

Ans: 2<sup>nd</sup> Stanza

There are as many daffodils as there are stars in the sky – so many that they can't be counted. He says in one glance he can see “ten thousand” which is a large number used to express how large the bed of flower is. They seem to be dancing in the breeze.

3<sup>rd</sup> Stanza

The waves of the lakes lap at the shore but the sound the daffodils make as they dance in the wind outdoes the sound of the water. The poet can't help being happy when he is in such joyful company. He looks at them for a long time, but doesn't realise how the value of experiencing these flowers at that time will affect his life.

4<sup>th</sup> Stanza

Now in the final stanza, the poet knows how much the flowers have affected him. Often, when he is lying on his couch or when he is in a thoughtful (pensive) mood, an image of the daffodils will come to him, and then his heart fills with pleasure and dances with the daffodils.

**3. Have you seen the flame of the forest or *Amarantas* or orchids in bloom in great numbers? Describe in paragraph what it looks like.**

Ans: **Orchids in bloom**

Orchid is a beautiful type of flower. It is also one of the most diverse flowers. Orchids are very colourful and fragrant. They are the most highly coveted ornamental plants. The delicate, exotic and graceful orchid symbolizes love, luxury, beauty and strength. Some orchid blooms throughout the year. They are elegant and almost unreal in their perfection and beauty.



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**4. “I gazed – and gazed – but little thought**

**What wealth the show to me had brought.”**

**What is the “wealth” the poet speaks of here?**

Ans: The wealth which is referred to here by the poet means wealth of joy and happiness, which actually comes from happy and fond memories when the poet saw host of golden daffodils by the sides of the lake beneath the trees.

**5. “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;”**

**a) When does the poet remember the daffodils again?**

Ans: The poet remembers the daffodils again when he is in a vacant or thoughtful mood lying on his couch.

**b) How does he see the flowers?**

Ans: He sees the flowers with his inward eyes and experiences the happy memory given by the flowers again.

**c) What happens to the poet then?**

Ans: The poet’s heart is filled with pleasure and he feels happy again when he remembers the flowers.

**APPLICIATION**

**1. Can you think of any other poem where a poet speaks of a similar subject? If so, make a comparison between the poem and “The Daffodils”.**

Ans: “The Lily” is a poem written by the English poet William Blake. It was published as part of his collection “Songs of Experience” In 1794.

This four lines poem states simply that the Lily is the superior flower in that it offers no harm or defence of itself to one who would love it. The rose is given as a contrast with its thorns and the sheep’s defensive horns are also cited. The Lily is offered as a form of perfect love in its innocence and honesty.



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But wordsworth's "The Daffodils" simply expresses the joy that the flowers give to the poet whenever he remembers it in his pensive mood.

- 2. From your reading of this poem can you say anything about Wordsworth's attitude towards nature?**

Ans: Wordsworth is a poet of nature, a fact known to every reader of Wordsworth. He is a supreme worshipper of nature. He believed nature as a living being, a source of joy and a great teacher. He believed that all things in nature are happy except man.

- 3. Suppose you see a pond full of lotus. How will you describe your feeling?**

Ans: The beautiful sight of a pond full of lotus growing brings joy to my heart. I feel delighted and fresh and want to remain watching the scenery forever forgetting everything else.



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