


## The Daffodils



Have you ever seen or visited a garden full of flowers? How do you feel when you see beautiful flowers gently moving in the breeze? Tell the friend sitting next to you what you saw and felt. Now read the poem below:



I wander'd 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 stretch'd 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.

— William Wordsworth



## ACTIVITIES

### 1. Did you understand the theme of the poem?

Discuss with your teacher the following questions orally. Then, write the answers in your exercise book.

- (a) Read the first stanza. Then find the answer to the following question:  
With what does the poet William Wordsworth compare himself?
- (b) Read the second stanza. Now find out the following: With what does Wordsworth compare the daffodils?
- (c) Read and recite the third stanza. Now find out what Wordsworth means by 'jocund' company from the options below:
  - (i) happy and cheerful
  - (ii) tall-ative
  - (iii) quiet and sad
- (d) Read and recite the lines:  
"I gazed-and gazed-but little thought  
What wealth the show to me had brought."  
What does the poet mean by the word 'wealth'? Why does he use the word here?
- (e) Read the last stanza of the poem and find out the following information:  
What happens to the poet when he lies on his couch in a sad and thoughtful mood?

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### 2. Choose the correct option in each of the following questions:

- (a) The poet compares himself to
  - (i) a piece of lonely cloud
  - (ii) a host of golden daffodils
  - (iii) a lake
  - (iv) the trees

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_



**(b) While wandering alone, the poet saw**

- (i) a crowd of people
- (ii) clouds floating over vales and hills
- (iii) a host of golden daffodils
- (iv) a lake

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

**(c) The poet compares the daffodils to**

- (i) a lonely cloud
- (ii) a lake
- (iii) the stars in the milky way
- (iv) a bay

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

**(d) The 'jocund company' referred to is the company of**

- (i) the daffodils
- (ii) the sparkling waves of the lake
- (iii) the dancing daffodils and the waves of the lake
- (iv) the stars on the milky way

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

**(e) The inward eye of the poet is the poet's**

- (i) vacant mood
- (ii) thoughtful mood
- (iii) imagination
- (iv) bliss of solitude

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

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3. Read the poem and match the following:

The waves	filled with pleasure and danced with the daffodils
The poet	danced beside the daffodils
A cloud	stretched in a never ending line
The daffodils	floated over valleys and hills
The poet's heart	saw a host of golden daffodils

4. Read the poem again and answer the following questions:

- Find a word in stanza 1 that means 'to roam about'.
- Find out what 'o'er' means. How will you write the actual word?
- Find a word in stanza 2 which means 'a lake'.
- What does the poet refer to when he says 'Ten thousand saw I'?
- What is 'sprightly dance'?
- Give another word each for 'glee' and 'jocund'.
- What is out-did in 'out- did the sparkling waves'?
- Give the opposite of the following words: *vacant, pleasure, bliss*

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5. A beautiful poem is meant to be recited. Listen to the teacher reading to you the following pairs of words from the poem. Then repeat the words after the teacher and practise the pronunciation of each word. This will help you recite the poem.

- |                              |                       |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|
| (a) wandered ----- wondered  | (e) they ----- day    |
| (b) breeze ----- bridge      | (f) show ----- sow    |
| (c) shine ----- sign         | (g) flash ----- flesh |
| (d) stretched ----- stressed | (h) heart ----- hurt  |



6. Let us go back to the poem once more and note the following:

- (a) The first line (L1) of the poem ends with cloud.
- (b) L 2 ends with hills.
- (c) L 3 ends with crowd.
- (d) L 4 ends with daffodils.

Note that *cloud* and *crowd* are a pair of rhyming words.

Also note that *hills* and *daffodils* are a pair of rhyming words.

Now, make a list of the other rhyming words in the poem.

Choose from the box the word rhyming with the underlined word and complete the sentence:

still            dancing            mood            breeze

- (i) The sun is shining and the girl is \_\_\_\_\_.
- (ii) The forest is full of green trees and the flowers are dancing in the cool \_\_\_\_\_.
- (iii) On the top of the bare hill I stand mute and \_\_\_\_\_.
- (iv) Don't spoil my \_\_\_\_\_ by being so rude.

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7. (a) Rewrite the following poetic lines in everyday English.

- (i) Ten thousand saw I at a glance.
- (ii) For oft when on my couch I lie in vacant or in pensive mood.
- (iii) Then my heart with pleasure fills.

(b) Find two words in the poem that are poetic in form and are not used in prose. Write a sentence illustrating the use of each of the two words.

(c) Illustrate the differences in meaning between *gaze* and *stare* by writing a sentence using each.



8. Note that one word in each of the following lines is wrong. Rewrite the extract below by replacing the wrong word with the correct word of the poem.

The trees beside them danced; but they  
Out-did the twinkling waves in glee;  
A cloud could not but be gay  
In such a joyous company:  
I gazed-and gazed-but also thought  
What wealth the sight to me had brought.

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9. Your teacher will divide you into four or eight groups. Each group will work on the stanza given to you. In your group, discuss the stanza given to you and write the main idea of the stanza in two or more sentences. Then collect all the passages and paste them on a chart paper along with the poem, and hang the chart in the class.

10. Let's learn some grammar:

Here are some lines that tell us what the poet said he was doing in the poem. Working with your partner, fill in the blank spaces with the correct form of the word.

One day the poet William Wordsworth was wandering alone along a lake. All at once, he \_\_\_\_\_ (see) a host of golden daffodils. The daffodils \_\_\_\_\_ (dance) in the breeze.

The poet \_\_\_\_\_ (compare) the daffodils to the stars on the milky way. They \_\_\_\_\_ (stretch) in a never-ending line along the side of the lake. He \_\_\_\_\_ (notice) that the waves of the lake were also \_\_\_\_\_ (dance) joyfully. He \_\_\_\_\_ (enjoy) the scene very much.

Later, in his sad moments, when the poet often \_\_\_\_\_ (recall) the scene, his heart filled with joy and \_\_\_\_\_ (begin) to dance with the daffodils.



11. Read the poem carefully. Pick out the words from each stanza that indicate or refer to some kind of *action* or *work*. In your exercise book, make a list of all the *action words* that you have picked out. Use the dictionary to find out the meaning of the unfamiliar action words.

You can list the words and their meanings in a table as shown below.

Action Word	Meaning

12. (a) The action words that you have listed refer to some kind of action or work done by the poet. Such words are called verbs. Write down some action words in Column B that match with the nouns in Column A.

Column A	Column B
clouds	
golden daffodils	
stars	
sparkling waves	



(b) Working with your partner, use the verbs in Column B and write four sentences that tell what the nouns in Column A were doing. One has been done for you.

(i) The cloud was floating over vales and hills.

(ii) \_\_\_\_\_

(iii) \_\_\_\_\_

(iv) \_\_\_\_\_

13. You have come across the term *preposition*. You know that prepositions are words like *at, as, by, for, to*, etc. These words are usually placed before a noun or a pronoun to show their relation to place, time, direction, means, etc.

Look at these phrases from the poem:

(i) over vales and hills

(ii) beside the lake

(iii) beneath the trees

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The underlined words are prepositions denoting place.

Here are some more examples:

(i) in the morning

(ii) at noon

(iii) on Monday

The underlined words above are prepositions denoting time.

Now read these phrases:

(i) up the hill

(ii) down the road

(iii) to the north

The underlined words in these three examples are prepositions denoting direction.





**Here are some more phrases:**

- (i) by car
- (ii) on foot
- (iii) with a knife

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Here by, on, with, denote how something is done. For example,  
I cut the apple with a knife.

**Now complete these sentences with the correct prepositions.**

- (i) Clouds float \_\_\_\_\_ hills and valleys. (on/over/by)
- (ii) The daffodils bloomed \_\_\_\_\_ a lake. (beneath/beside/between)
- (iii) Stars were shining \_\_\_\_\_ the night sky. (on/in/over)
- (iv) They formed a line \_\_\_\_\_ the shore of a bay. (beneath/along/for)
- (v) He would often lie \_\_\_\_\_ his couch lost in thoughts. (on/in/by)

**14. Discuss in groups and write a few lines on:**

- (a) how you felt after you saw a beautiful garden full of blooming flowers
- (b) a place without trees and flowers

**15. (a) Let's play a game:**

**Sit in a circle. Your teacher will tell you a story. After a few sentences she/he will stop narrating. Each student will continue to narrate the story from the point where the previous one has stopped. Each student is supposed to add four to ten sentences. You may add new characters, events, descriptions and so on. The one who comes up with the maximum number of sentences will be the winner.**

**(b) Now, write the story in your own words. Give a suitable title.**

