

CLASS NOTES

Class: VI

Topic: Poem 1. Daffodils

By- William Wordsworth

Subject: ENGLISH

About the poem: The poet a nature lover, was enthralled by the beauty of daffodils while he was walking along a lake. Stretched across a wide expanse, the sight of the daffodils swaying in the breeze leaves an indelible mark on him. The poet treasured this experience, which lifted his spirits whenever he felt lonely.

Reading Comprehension

A. Read these lines and answer the questions that follow.

1. Continuous as the stars that shine
And twinkle on the milky way,
They stretched in never-ending line

a. What is compared to the stars?

Ans. The daffodils are being compared to the stars.

b. How do the stars appear on the Milky Way?

Ans. The stars twinkle on the milky way. The poet says that the daffodils were twinkling like the stars because they looked bright, and were many in number.

c. What does the speaker mean when he says 'they stretch never-ending line'?

Ans. The speaker means that the daffodils were so many that they seemed endless.

2. 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:

a. Whose 'jocund company' does the speaker refer to?

Ans. By jocund company, the poet means the daffodils whose beauty he was enjoying.

b. What is the 'show' referred to here?

Ans. The show is the sight of the never-ending line of daffodils which looked so beautiful and lively as they tossed their heads in the breeze. They seemed to outdo the sparkling waves in joy.

c. What does the speaker mean when he uses the word 'wealth'?

Ans. By using the word wealth, the speaker wishes to convey that the sight of the daffodils was a rich experience that not only made him happy then, but even later on whenever he recollected the scene. It was the source of his creativity and was valuable than any material gain.

B. Answer these questions.

1. What did the speaker see 'all at once' and where?

Ans. The speaker saw a host of golden daffodils, fluttering and dancing in the breeze beside the lake and beneath the trees.

2. Which lines in the poem tell us that what the speaker saw were present in great numbers?

Ans. "Ten thousand saw I at a glance" – this line tells us that what the poet saw were great in numbers.

3. Mention three things that the flowers did.

Ans. The flowers fluttered and danced in the breeze, they stretched in a never-ending line and they tossed their head in a sprightly dance.

4. What did the waves do?

Ans. The waves sparkled and danced.

5. What happens when the speaker is in a 'vacant' or 'pensive' mood?

Ans. Whenever the speaker is in a 'vacant' or 'pensive' mood, he thinks of the beauty of the daffodils. His heart then fills with supreme happiness and dances with the daffodils.

C. Think and answer.

'The beauty of nature continues to bring joy to the speaker long after he visited the place.' Explain the statement with examples from the poem.

Ans. Wordsworth was greatly moved by the beauty of the daffodils. Later, whenever he was in a melancholic or pensive mood, he revived the memory of the flowers dancing to the tune of the breeze. The very memory of the sight delighted him and his heart experienced such supreme joy that he felt he had joined the daffodils in their sprightly dance. This is why it is said that the beauty of nature continued to bring joy to him long after he visited that place.

D. Figures of speech used in the poem.

1. Simile

I wandered lonely as a cloud.
Continuous as the stars that shine.

2. Alliteration

Beside the lake, beneath the trees,
And dances with the daffodils.
I gazed and gazed.
What wealth the show to me had brought.

3. Hyperbole

When all at once I saw a crowd,
Ten thousand saw I at a glance.
They stretched in never-ending line.

4. Personification

Fluttering and dancing in the breeze.
Tossing their heads in sprightly dance.
Out-did the sparkling waves in glee.
The waves beside them danced;
When all at once I saw a crowd.

5. Metaphor

They flash upon that inward eye. Here inward eye represents the sweet memories.

6. Imagery

"lonely as a cloud", "a crowd", "never-ending line", "milky way" and "jocund company."

7. Repetition

I gazed and gazed.

