

LEAD IN

While out walking in the country on a bright, windy day, Wordsworth saw fields of daffodils stretching out before him. His sister Dorothy was with him and says in her *Journals*, 'I never saw daffodils so beautiful'. Does Wordsworth manage to convey the beauty of the flowers to you?

TEXT I Wandered Lonely As A Cloud

I wandered¹ lonely as a cloud
 That floats² on high o'er vales³ and hills,
 When all at once I saw a crowd,
 A host⁴, of golden daffodils⁵;
 Beside the lake, beneath⁶ the trees, 5
 Fluttering⁷ and dancing in the breeze.

Continuous as the stars that shine
 And twinkle⁸ on the milky way⁹,
 They stretched in never-ending line
 Along the margin of the bay: 10
 Ten thousand saw I at a glance¹⁰,
 Tossing¹¹ their heads in sprightly¹² dance.

The waves beside them danced; but they
 Outdid¹³ the sparkling¹⁴ waves in glee¹⁵;
 A poet could but not be gay¹⁶, 15
 In such a jocund company;
 I gazed¹⁷ – and gazed – but little thought
 What wealth the show to me had brought:

For oft¹⁸, when on my couch¹⁹ I lie
 In vacant or in pensive mood²⁰, 20
 They flash upon that inward²¹ eye
 Which is the bliss²² of solitude;
 And then my heart with pleasure fills,
 And dances with the daffodils.

GLOSSARY

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| 1. wandered: moved slowly | 6. beneath: under | 11. Tossing: moving in an uncontrolled way | for a long time |
| 2. floats: moves slowly in the air | 7. Fluttering: moving quickly like a bird's wings | 12. sprightly: energetic | 18. oft: often |
| 3. o'er vales: over the valleys | 8. twinkle: shine intermittently | 13. Outdid: did better | 19. couch: sofa |
| 4. host: large number | 9. milky way: white band of stars that can be seen across the sky at night | 14. sparkling: shining brightly | 20. In vacant ... mood: not thinking about anything or thinking deeply about something |
| 5. daffodils: yellow spring flowers | 10. glance: quick look | 15. glee: happiness | 21. inward: inner, inside |
| | | 16. gay: happy | 22. bliss: perfect happiness |
| | | 17. gazed: looked attentively | |