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|  | | **Mohamed Kheider University of Biskra** |  | |
| **Module: Literature (British)** | | **Faculty of Letters and Languages** | **Level: Third Year (L 3)** | |
| **Lecturer: Mr A. Boulegroune** | | **Dept. of English Language & Literature** | **Semester: One** | |
| **TD Session № 01: TD Session № 01 Analysis of William Wordsworth’s “The Inward Eye”** | | |

Read the Text carefully. Then, answer the questions below.

**The Text:**

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| 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 (1815)** | **The Inward Eye**  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. |

**Poet’s Short Biography and Background of the Poem:**

William Wordsworth was born on April 7, 1770, in Cockermouth, Cumberland, a small quiet market town in northwest England, on the edge of the Lake District. Thus from the very beginning he was associated with that region which he loved more than any other, and except for brief sojourns in Britain, Germany, and Italy, he never left his beloved Lake Country. He died in 1850 and was buried at Grasmere, Westmoreland, about twenty-five miles from his birthplace. "I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud" is a [lyric poem](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lyric_poetry) by [William Wordsworth](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_Wordsworth). It is one of his most popular, and was inspired by an encounter on 15 April 1802 during a walk with his younger sister [Dorothy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dorothy_Wordsworth), when they saw a "long belt" of [daffodils](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Daffodil) on the shore of [Ullswater](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ullswater) in the English [Lake District](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lake_District). Written in 1804, this 24 line lyric was first published in 1807 in [*Poems, in Two Volumes*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Poems,_in_Two_Volumes), and revised in 1815.

**Questions:**

1. Where was the poet wondering in the first stanza?
2. In the first and second stanzas, how do the flowers move? What feeling does this movement inspire to the narrator?
3. What does Wordsworth compare the daffodils to? Is the comparison appropriate?
4. What do “star” and “milky way” suggest in lines 7 and 8?
5. Why does the poet, in the third stanza, think that this sight has brought wealth to him? To what extent is he affected by the experience of seeing the daffodils?
6. In the fourth stanza, what is the significance of the change of the setting and tense?
7. What is the “inward eye” which the persona mentions in line 21?
8. Explain the interplay of the following Romantic concepts: solitude, nature, the poet, the past, and imagination in the whole poem?
9. Read Wordsworth’s definition of a poet:

He is a man ... who rejoices more than other men in the spirit of life that is in him. [...] he has [...] a disposition to be affected more than other men by absent things as if they were present; an ability of conjuring up in himself passions, which are indeed far from being the same as those produced by real events, yet do [...] more nearly resemble the passions produced by real events, than any thing which [...] other men are accustomed to feel in themselves.

Explain how *I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud* supports the definition of the poet.