

"Daffodils" by William Wordsworth,

❁ Stanza 1

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.

Explanation:

The poet begins by describing his own loneliness, comparing himself to a solitary cloud drifting above the hills and valleys. As he walks, he unexpectedly sees a large group of golden daffodils beside a lake and under trees. The flowers catch his attention because they appear to be fluttering and dancing in the breeze. Their joyful movement and vivid presence lift his mood. The scene changes his feeling from lonely to connected with nature. It becomes a moment of surprise and beauty.

Poetic Devices:

- **Simile** – “*lonely as a cloud*”
→ Compares the poet's solitude to a drifting cloud, highlighting his emotional state.
- **Personification** – “*Fluttering and dancing*”
→ Gives human characteristics to the daffodils, making them seem alive and joyful.

✧ Stanza 2

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.

Explanation:

The poet describes the daffodils as endless, comparing them to the stars in the sky that shine and twinkle without limit. They seem to form a continuous line along the shore of a bay. He imagines seeing ten thousand daffodils all at once. Their motion is described as a “sprightly dance,” showing their lively energy. The image suggests not just beauty but also abundance. The comparison gives the flowers a magical, cosmic quality.

Poetic Devices:

- **Simile** – “*Continuous as the stars that shine*”
→ Highlights the vast number of daffodils by comparing them to countless stars.
- **Hyperbole** – “*Ten thousand saw I at a glance*”
→ Exaggerates the number to express the overwhelming beauty of the scene.

🐾 Stanza 3

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:

Explanation:

The poet observes that even the waves of the lake seemed to dance joyfully, but the daffodils were even more cheerful. Their liveliness surpassed nature's own beauty. Being in the presence of the daffodils filled him with happiness, as no poet could remain sad around such joyful company. He kept looking at them, captivated by their charm. At the time, he didn't realize how valuable the memory would become. The “wealth” refers to the emotional richness this memory would later bring him.

Poetic Devices:

- **Personification** – “*The waves beside them danced*”
→ Gives the waves human behavior, emphasizing the harmony between the lake and flowers.
- **Alliteration** – “*What wealth*”
→ The repetition of the 'w' sound emphasizes the value of the daffodils' memory.

🐾 Stanza 4

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.

Explanation:

The poet shares how, during quiet or thoughtful moments, the memory of the daffodils returns to him. Even when he is lying alone, the image appears in his imagination—his "inward eye." This recollection brings him peace and joy. It transforms his solitude into something beautiful and fulfilling. His heart feels so happy that it too seems to dance with the daffodils. The memory has become a lasting source of emotional comfort.

Poetic Devices:

- **Imagery** – "*They flash upon that inward eye*"
→ Creates a mental picture of the daffodils, showing the strength of memory and imagination.
- **Metaphor** – "*the bliss of solitude*"
→ Describes peaceful solitude as something joyful and rich, without using "like" or "as."

"No Men Are Foreign" by James Kirkup**🌐 Stanza 1**

Remember, no men are strange, no countries foreign
Beneath all uniforms, a single body breathes
Like ours: the land our brothers walk upon
Is earth like this, in which we all shall lie.
They, too, aware of sun and air and water,
Are fed by peaceful harvests, by war's long winter starved.

Explanation:

The poet reminds us that all humans are essentially the same, regardless of their nationality. Uniforms and borders may differ, but beneath them, everyone shares the same human form. People in other countries walk the same earth we do, and eventually, all are buried in the same soil. They enjoy the same elements—sun, air, and water—and like us, they suffer in times of war. This stanza emphasizes our shared humanity and the futility of division.

Poetic Devices:

- **Metaphor** – "*war's long winter*"
→ War is compared to a harsh, starving winter, highlighting its cruelty.
- **Repetition** – "*no men are strange, no countries foreign*"
→ Repeating the idea stresses the central theme of unity.

👇 Stanza 2

Their hands are ours, and in their lines we read
A labour not different from our own.
Remember they have eyes like ours that wake
Or sleep, and strength that can be won
By love. In every land is common life
That all can recognise and understand.

Explanation:

The poet draws physical and emotional parallels between people across borders. He says their hands are just like ours, marked by the same hard work. Their eyes open and close like ours, showing they live and feel like we do. Their strength comes from love, just as ours does. No matter the nation, people share common lives filled with relatable emotions and efforts. The poet urges us to recognize this universal connection.

Poetic Devices:

- **Imagery** – *“Their hands are ours”*
→ Creates a vivid picture of similarity and shared labor.
- **Alliteration** – *“strength that can be won by love”*
→ Repetition of the 'w' sound adds rhythm and emphasis on the power of love.

🔥 **Stanza 3**

Let us remember, whenever we are told
To hate our brothers, it is ourselves
That we shall dispossess, betray, condemn.
Remember, we who take arms against each other
It is the human earth that we defile.
Our hells of fire and dust outrage the innocence
Of air that is everywhere our own.

Explanation:

The poet warns us against hatred and war. When we're urged to hate others, we harm ourselves by losing compassion and shared humanity. Fighting others means destroying our shared planet and the lives that depend on it. War brings fire and destruction, polluting the very air we all need to survive. This stanza highlights the self-destructive nature of violence. Hurting others ultimately damages all of us.

Poetic Devices:

- **Personification** – *“hells of fire and dust outrage the innocence”*
→ War is shown as defiling innocent elements like air and nature.
- **Enjambment** – Lines flow into one another without pauses
→ Mirrors the ongoing, unstoppable effect of war and hate.

☞ Stanza 4

Remember, no men are foreign, and no countries strange.

Explanation:

The final line repeats the opening thought for emphasis. It reinforces the central message: we all belong to one human family, regardless of national or cultural differences. The poet leaves us with this powerful reminder to reject hatred, war, and division. Peace and understanding come from recognizing our shared identity. This simple truth, if remembered, could transform how we see the world. Unity is the poem's closing call.

Poetic Devices:

- **Repetition** – “*no men are foreign*”
→ Stresses the importance of the poem's central message.
 - **Paradox** – “*no countries strange*”
→ Challenges the usual way we think about national boundaries.
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"In Spite of War" by Angela Morgan.

☞ Stanza 1

In spite of war, in spite of death,
In spite of all man's sufferings,
Something within me laughs and sings
And I must praise with all my breath
The beauty of the cosmic things.

Explanation:

The poet begins by acknowledging the horrors of war, death, and human suffering. However, she says that despite all of this, something deep inside her still feels joy and a desire to sing. She cannot help but celebrate the beauty that still exists in the universe. Her inner spirit remains unbroken, moved by the wonders of nature and life. This stanza emphasizes hope and resilience. The human soul can find beauty even in dark times.

Poetic Devices:

- **Repetition** – “*In spite of*”
→ Emphasizes contrast between outer destruction and inner hope.
- **Alliteration** – “*laughs and sings*”
→ Enhances musicality and shows the strength of inner joy.

❁ Stanza 2

The radiance of the midnight sky,
The faith that looks with fearless eyes,
The love that conquers hate and lies,
The dawn of truth, the sunset's dye—
These are my song, and here am I.

Explanation:

The poet finds inspiration in the beauty and values that outlast conflict. She admires the night sky, unwavering faith, and love's power to overcome hatred and falsehood. She also honors truth and the natural beauty of the sunset. These things give her purpose and voice. This stanza continues the theme of inner celebration, showing that light and truth endure. The poet chooses to focus on these eternal things rather than the destruction around her.

Poetic Devices:

- **Imagery** – “*The radiance of the midnight sky*”
→ Creates a vivid picture of natural beauty that inspires awe.
- **Personification** – “*faith that looks with fearless eyes*”
→ Gives faith human qualities, showing its courage and strength.

❁ Stanza 3

So in the face of all things wrong
My heart beats brave and high;
I make of sorrow this my song,
I find amid the dark, a strong
And deathless melody.

Explanation:

The poet declares that even in the presence of injustice and suffering, her heart remains strong and full of courage. She transforms sorrow into song, showing resilience through creative expression. Even in darkness, she discovers a powerful and eternal melody. This reflects her refusal to be silenced or crushed by despair. Instead, she turns pain into beauty. Her song becomes a symbol of inner strength and endurance.

Poetic Devices:

- **Oxymoron** – “*deathless melody*”
→ Combines opposites to express the idea of eternal beauty and spirit.

- **Metaphor** – “*I make of sorrow this my song*”
→ Compares sorrow to something she can transform into art.

