

Reading Comprehension 4- Poem

Grade 5

"Daffodils" (also known as "I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud") by William Wordsworth

Read the poem carefully and answer the questions that follow.

Daffodils

By William Wordsworth

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.

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.

Comprehension Questions

1. How does the poet describe himself at the beginning of the poem?
2. Where did the poet see the daffodils?
3. To what does the poet compare the daffodils in the second stanza?
4. According to the poem, approximately how many daffodils did the poet see?
5. What were the waves doing beside the daffodils?
6. In the third stanza, the poet says the daffodils "Out-did the sparkling waves in glee." What does this mean?
7. When does the poet remember the daffodils, according to the final stanza?
8. What effect does the memory of daffodils have on the poet?

Vocabulary Questions

9. What does "wandered" mean in the first line of the poem?
10. Find a word in the poem that means "happy" or "cheerful."
11. What does "jocund" mean in the third stanza?
12. What does "pensive" mean in the last stanza?
13. What is meant by "inward eye" in the final stanza?

Grammar Questions

14. Identify the simile in the first stanza.
15. Find an example of personification in the poem.
16. In the line "I gazed—and gazed—but little thought," what is the purpose of the dashes?
17. In the line "Continuous as the stars that shine," identify the part of speech for "Continuous."
18. The poem follows a specific rhyme scheme. Identify the rhyme pattern in the first stanza.

Answer Key

Comprehension Answers

1. The poet describes himself as "lonely as a cloud."
2. The poet saw the daffodils beside a lake, beneath trees.
3. The poet compares the daffodils to stars that shine and twinkle on the Milky Way.
4. The poet saw ten thousand daffodils ("Ten thousand saw I at a glance").
5. The waves were dancing beside the daffodils.
6. It means that the daffodils seemed more joyful or lively than the waves; they showed more happiness in their movement.
7. The poet remembers the daffodils when he is lying on his couch in a vacant or thoughtful mood.
8. When the poet remembers the daffodils, his heart fills with pleasure and he feels as if he is dancing with them.

Vocabulary Answers

9. "Wandered" means to walk slowly around or to a place, without a specific purpose or direction.
10. "Gay" (in the line "A poet could not but be gay")
11. "Jocund" means cheerful and lighthearted.
12. "Pensive" means deeply thoughtful, often with a touch of sadness or seriousness.
13. The "inward eye" refers to the mind's ability to visualize or remember things; it's the power of memory or imagination.

Grammar Answers

14. "I wandered lonely as a cloud" is a simile comparing the poet to a cloud.
15. Personification examples include the daffodils "dancing," "tossing their heads," or the waves that "danced."
16. The dashes create emphasis and show a continuous action; they slow down the reading to highlight the poet's sustained gazing.
17. "Continuous" is an adjective.

18. The rhyme scheme is ABABCC (cloud/hills, crowd/daffodils, trees/breeze).

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