



Wordsworth: footnoted

by Nick Franklin

The footnoted texts of *Lines Written a Few Miles Above Tintern Abbey* and of *I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud*.

Wordsworth Footnoted

Lines Written A Few Miles above Tintern Abbey¹

Five years have passed; five summers, with the length
Of five long winters!² and again I hear
These waters, **rolling**³ from their mountain-springs
With a **sweet inland murmur**⁴. Once again
Do I behold⁵ these **steep**⁶ and **lofty**⁷ cliffs⁸,
Which on a **wild secluded**⁹ scene impress
Thoughts of more deep seclusion; and connect
The **landscape**¹⁰ with the **quiet**¹¹ of the sky.
The day is come when I again repose
Here, under this dark sycamore, and view
These plots of **cottage-ground**¹², these orchard-tufts,
Which, at this season, with their unripe fruits,
Among the woods and **copses**¹³ **lose themselves**¹⁴,
Nor, with their green and simple **hue**¹⁵, disturb
The wild green landscape. Once again I see
These **hedge-rows**¹⁶, hardly hedge-rows, little lines
Of sportive wood run wild; these pastoral farms
Green to the **very door**¹⁷; and wreathes of smoke¹⁸
Sent up, in silence, from among the trees,
With some uncertain notice, as might seem,
Of vagrant dwellers in the houseless woods,
Or of some hermit's cave, where by his fire
The hermit sits alone.

anaphora

personification (murmur)

assonance

[10]

internal rhyme

alliteration

assonance

alliteration

[20]

¹ not actually true: he wrote the poem after he got home from the walking holiday, not in the Wye Valley

² notice how, from the beginning Wordsworth connects happiness and sadness; summer and winter are inextricably linked

³ **rolling** – (in this case) flowing

⁴ **sweet inland murmur** – the River Wye is tidal beyond Tintern, so the line shows that Wordsworth placed himself five miles upstream

⁵ **do I behold** – I can see

⁶ **steep** – precipitous

⁷ **lofty** – high, tall

⁸ **cliff** – precipice, rock-face

⁹ **secluded** – remote

¹⁰ **landscape** – panorama

¹¹ **quiet** (n.) – tranquillity

¹² **cottage-ground** – garden of a cottage

¹³ **copse** – small wood, group of trees

¹⁴ **lose themselves** – are indistinguishable from the background

¹⁵ **hue** – tone, colour

¹⁶ **hedge-rows** – planted rows of shrubbery used to mark the edges of fields

¹⁷ **to the very door** – (emphatic) right up to their doors

¹⁸ the smoke that Wordsworth could see didn't come from vagrants' or hermits' fires but from charcoal burning for the incipient iron industry!

Second Stanza.

Though absent long,
These forms of beauty have not been to me,¹⁹
As is a landscape to a blind man's eye:
But **oft**²⁰, in lonely rooms, and mid the **din**²¹
Of towns and cities, I have owed to them,
In hours of **weariness**²², sensations sweet,
Felt in the blood, and felt along the heart,
And passing even into my purer mind
With tranquil restoration: – feelings too [30]
Of unremembered pleasure; such, perhaps,
As may have had no trivial influence
On that best portion of a good man's life;
His little, nameless, unremembered acts
Of **kindness**²³ and of love. Nor less, I trust,
To them I may have owed another gift,
Of aspect more sublime; that **blessed**²⁴ **mood**²⁵,
In which the **burthen**²⁶ of the mystery,
In which the heavy and the **weary**²⁷ weight alliteration
Of all this unintelligible world [40]
Is **lighten'd**²⁸ – that serene and blessed mood,
In which the affections gently **lead us on**²⁹,
Until, the breath of this **corporeal frame**³⁰,
And even the motion of our human blood
Almost suspended, we are laid asleep
In body, and become a living soul:
While with an eye made quiet³¹ by the power synecdoche³²
Of harmony, and the deep power of joy,
We see into the life of things^{33 34}.

¹⁹ the version in the Norton has "These beauteous forms, / Through a long absence, have not been to me"

²⁰ **oft** – (poetic) often, frequently

²¹ **din** – noise, furor

²² **weariness** – tiredness, exhaustion

²³ **kindness** – generosity, altruism

²⁴ **blessed** – a. spiritual; b. happy, joyous

²⁵ **mood** – frame of mind, emotional state

²⁶ **burthen** – (archaic) burden

²⁷ **weary** – tiresome, tiring

²⁸ **lightened** – alleviated, lessened, reduced

²⁹ **to lead sb. on** (lead-led-led) – (in this case) guide sb.

³⁰ **corporeal frame** – physical body

³¹ **made quiet** – calmed (because he is now in a meditative trance)

³² it is not really his mind which is made quiet but his mind and body

³³ **see into the life of thing** – can truly understand our reality

³⁴ Cf. Blake's *Auguries of Innocence*: "To see a world in a grain of sand, / And a heaven in a wild flower, / Hold infinity in the palm of your hand, / And eternity in an hour."

The Third Stanza

If this

Be **but**³⁵ a vain belief, yet, oh! how **oft**³⁶, [50]
In darkness, and amid the many shapes *alliteration*
Of **joyless**³⁷ day-lights; when the **fretful**³⁸ **stir**³⁹
Unprofitable, and the fever of the world,
Have hung upon the beatings of my heart,
How oft, in spirit, have I turned to **thee**⁴⁰
O **sylvan**⁴¹ Wye! **Thou**⁴² **wanderer**⁴³ through the wood *alliteration, apostrophe*
How often has my spirit turned to thee!

³⁵ **but** – (in this case) only

³⁶ **oft** – (poetic) often, frequently

³⁷ **joyless** – despondent

³⁸ **fretful** – anxious

³⁹ **stir** – bustle, commotion

⁴⁰ **thee** – (archaic) you (singular)

⁴¹ **sylvan** – bounded by woods, with trees on both sides

⁴² **thou** – (archaic) you (singular)

⁴³ **wanderer** – itinerant

The Fourth Stanza

And now, with gleams of half-extinguished thought,
With many recognitions dim and faint,
And somewhat of a sad perplexity, [60]
The picture of the mind revives again:
While here I stand, not only with the sense
Of present pleasure, but with pleasing thoughts *alliteration*
That in this moment there is life and food
For future years. And so I dare to hope
Though changed, no doubt, from what I was, when first
I came among these hills; when like a **roe**⁴⁴
I **bounded**⁴⁵ o'er the mountains, by the sides
Of the deep rivers, and the **lonely**⁴⁶ streams,
Wherever nature led⁴⁷; more like a man [70]
Flying⁴⁸ from something that he **dreads**⁴⁹, than one
Who **sought**⁵⁰ the thing he loved. For nature then
(The **coarser**⁵¹ pleasures of my boyish days,
And their **glad animal movements**⁵² all **gone by**⁵³),
To me was **all in all**⁵⁴. – I cannot **paint**⁵⁵
What then I was, The **sounding cataract**⁵⁶
Haunted me like a passion: the tall rock, *antithesis*
The mountain, and the deep and **gloomy**⁵⁷ wood, *antithesis*
Their colours and their forms, were then to me
An appetite: a feeling and a love, [80]
That had no need of a remoter charm,
By **thought**⁵⁸ supplied, or any interest
Unborrowed from the eye.

⁴⁴ **roe** – (*Capreolus capreolus*) a species of small Eurasian deer

⁴⁵ **to bound** – leap, jump, run

⁴⁶ **lonely** – isolated

⁴⁷ **wherever nature led** – intuitively

⁴⁸ **to fly** (fly-flew-flown) – (*in this case*) flee, escape

⁴⁹ **to dread** – fear

⁵⁰ **to seek** (seek-sought-sought) – look for, try to find

⁵¹ **coarser** – less refined

⁵² **glad animal movements** – carefree running among the mountains

⁵³ **gone by** – have passed

⁵⁴ **all in all** – everything

⁵⁵ **to paint** – (*in this case*) describe

⁵⁶ **sounding cataract** – noisy waterfall

⁵⁷ **gloomy** – dark

⁵⁸ **thought** – intellectual reasoning

– That time is past,
 And all its aching joys are now no more, *oxymoron*
 And all its **dizzy**⁵⁹ **raptures**⁶⁰. Not for this
 Faint I, nor **mourn**⁶¹ nor **murmur**⁶²: other gifts *alliteration*
 Have followed, for such loss, I would believe,
 Abundant recompense. For I have learned
 To look on nature, not as in the hour
 Of **thoughtless**⁶³ youth, but hearing **oftentimes**⁶⁴ [90] *synesthesia*⁶⁵
 The still, sad music of humanity,
 Not **harsh**⁶⁶ or **grating**⁶⁷, though of ample power
 To **chasten**⁶⁸ and **subdue**⁶⁹. And I have felt
 A presence that **disturbs**⁷⁰ me with the joy *antithesis*
 Of elevated thoughts; a sense sublime
 Of something **far more**⁷¹ deeply **interfused**⁷²,
 Whose **dwelling**⁷³ is **the light of setting suns**⁷⁴, *alliteration*
 And the round ocean, and the living air,
 And the blue sky, and in the mind of man, *consonance*
 A motion and a spirit, that impels [100]
 All thinking things, all objects of all thought, *allitero-assonance*
 And rolls through all things. **Therefore**⁷⁵ am I still
 A lover of the **meadows**⁷⁶ and the woods,
 And mountains; and of all that we **behold**⁷⁷
 From this green earth; of all the **mighty**⁷⁸ world
 Of eye and ear, both what they half-create,
 And what perceive⁷⁹; well pleased to recognize
 In nature and the language of the sense,
 The anchor of my purest thoughts, the nurse,
 The guide, the guardian of my heart, and soul *alliteration*
 Of all my moral being.

⁵⁹ **dizzy** – dizzying, heady, exhilarating, invigorating

⁶⁰ **raptures** – ecstasy

⁶¹ **to mourn** – lament

⁶² **to murmur** – (in this case) complain, protest

⁶³ **thoughtless** – unreasoning, intuitive

⁶⁴ **oftentimes** – often, frequently

⁶⁵ **the mixing up of different senses sometimes indicates that a character is overwhelmed**

⁶⁶ **harsh** – unpleasant

⁶⁷ **grating** – cacophonous

⁶⁸ **to chasten** – humble

⁶⁹ **to subdue** – calm

⁷⁰ **to disturb** – (in this case) excite, arouse

⁷¹ **far more** – much more

⁷² **interfused** – blended together, mixed

⁷³ **dwelling** – abode, home

⁷⁴ **the light of setting sun** – the twilight, the light of sunset/sundown/dusk

⁷⁵ **therefore** – so, for this reason

⁷⁶ **meadow** – field of wild flowers and grass (typically near a river)

⁷⁷ **to behold** (-hold/-held/-held) – see, perceive

⁷⁸ **mighty** – great

⁷⁹ **the world is possessed by sight and hearing; things only exists in perception**

Fifth Stanza: (Addressing Dorothy):

Nor, **perchance**⁸⁰,
If I **were not thus taught**⁸¹, Should I the **more**
Suffer my **genial**⁸² **spirits to decay**⁸³:
For **thou art**⁸⁴ with me, here, upon the banks
Of this fair river; thou, my dearest Friend, [115]
My dear, dear Friend, and in **thy**⁸⁵ voice I catch
The language of my **former**⁸⁶ heart, and read
My former pleasures in the shooting lights
Of thy **wild**⁸⁷ eyes. Oh! yet a little while
May I **behold**⁸⁸ in thee what I was once, [120]
My dear, dear Sister! And this prayer I make,
Knowing that Nature never did betray *alliteration*
The heart that loved her; **'tis**⁸⁹ her privilege,
Through all the years of this our life, to **lead**⁹⁰
From joy to joy: for she can so inform [125]
The mind that is within us, so impress
With **quietness**⁹¹ and beauty, and so feed
With **lofty**⁹² thoughts, that neither **evil tongues**⁹³,
Rash⁹⁴ judgments, nor the **sneers**⁹⁵ of **selfish**⁹⁶ men,
Nor **greetings**⁹⁷ where no **kindness**⁹⁸ is, nor all [130]
The **dreary**⁹⁹ **intercourse**¹⁰⁰ of daily life,
Shall **e'er**¹⁰¹ **prevail against**¹⁰² us, or disturb
Our **cheerful**¹⁰³ faith that all which we **behold**¹⁰⁴
Is full of blessings.

⁸⁰ **perchance** – perhaps

⁸¹ **were not thus taught** – hadn't learned things in this way

⁸² **genial** – a. cheerful; b. native, inborn; c. creative, relating to genius and poetic inspiration

⁸³ **to decay** – decline, diminish

⁸⁴ **thou art** – (archaic) you are

⁸⁵ **thy** – (archaic) your

⁸⁶ **former** – (in this case) younger

⁸⁷ **wild** – excited

⁸⁸ **to behold** (-hold/-held/-held) – see, perceive

⁸⁹ **'tis** – (archaic) it is

⁹⁰ **to lead** (lead-led-led) – guide

⁹¹ **quietness** – tranquillity

⁹² **lofty** – elevated, refined

⁹³ **evil tongues** – gossip, malicious rumours

⁹⁴ **rash** – precipitous, impetuous

⁹⁵ **sneers** – disdain

⁹⁶ **selfish** – egotistical

⁹⁷ **greeting** – salutation, welcome

⁹⁸ **kindness** – friendliness, generosity, altruism

⁹⁹ **dreary** – dull, tedious

¹⁰⁰ **intercourse** – interaction

¹⁰¹ **e'er** – ever

¹⁰² **to prevail against** – conquer, triumph over

¹⁰³ **cheerful** – happy, optimistic

¹⁰⁴ **to behold** (-hold/-held/-held) – see, perceive

Therefore let the moon
 Shine on thee in thy solitary walk; 135]
 And let the misty mountain winds be free *alliteration*
 To blow against thee: and in after years,
 When these wild ecstasies¹⁰⁵ shall be matured
 Into a sober pleasure, when thy mind
 Shall be a **mansion**¹⁰⁶ for all lovely forms, [140]
 Thy memory be as a **dwelling-place**¹⁰⁷
 For all sweet sounds and harmonies; Oh! then,
 If solitude, or fear, or pain, or grief,
 Should be thy **portion**¹⁰⁸, with what **healing**¹⁰⁹ thoughts
 Of tender joy **wilt thou**¹¹⁰ remember me, [145] *alliteration*
 And these my **exhortations**¹¹¹!

Nor, **perchance**¹¹²,
 If I should be, where I no more can hear
 Thy voice, nor catch from thy wild eyes these gleams
 Of past existence, wilt thou then forget
 That on the banks of this delightful stream [150]
 We stood together; And that I, so long
 A worshipper of Nature, **hither came**¹¹³,
 Unwearied in that service: rather say
 With warmer love, oh! with far deeper zeal
 Of holier love. Nor wilt thou then forget, [155]
 That after many **wanderings**¹¹⁴, many years
 Of absence, these **steep**¹¹⁵ woods and **lofty**¹¹⁶ cliffs¹¹⁷,
 And this green pastoral landscape, were to me
 More dear, both for themselves, and for thy sake.

Listen to it at:

<http://bruce.personal.asu.edu/tintern/content/tintern-abbey-1-23>

¹⁰⁵ **feminists have pointed out how Dorothy's 'wild ecstasies' contrast with the more mature attitude to nature displayed by William. However, as Dorothy was younger (by 1½ years) and this was her first visit to the Wye Valley and William says that he expects she will attain his maturer state, this doesn't seem an especially valid argument.**

¹⁰⁶ **mansion** – (in this case) accumulation

¹⁰⁷ **dwelling-place** – abode, home

¹⁰⁸ **portion** – destiny

¹⁰⁹ **healing** – curative

¹¹⁰ **wilt thou** – will you

¹¹¹ **exhortations** – encouragement

¹¹² **perchance** – perhaps

¹¹³ **hither came** – (archaic) came here

¹¹⁴ **many wanderings** – much nomadism/itinerancy

¹¹⁵ **steep** – precipitous

¹¹⁶ **lofty** – high, tall

¹¹⁷ **cliff** – precipice, rock-face

I Wandered Lonely As A Cloud (1807)

I wandered¹¹⁸ lonely as a cloud
That floats on high o'er¹¹⁹ vales¹²⁰ and hills¹²¹,
When all at once¹²² I saw a crowd¹²³,
A host¹²⁴, of golden daffodils;
Beside the lake, beneath¹²⁵ the trees,
Fluttering¹²⁶ and dancing in the breeze.

Continuous as the stars that shine
And twinkle¹²⁷ on the Milky Way¹²⁸,
They stretched¹²⁹ in never-ending line
Along the margin of a bay¹³⁰:
Ten thousand saw I at a glance¹³¹,
Tossing¹³² their heads in sprightly¹³³ dance.

The waves beside¹³⁴ them danced; but they
Out-did¹³⁵ the sparkling¹³⁶ waves in glee¹³⁷:
A poet could not but be gay¹³⁸,
In such a jocund¹³⁹ company:
I gazed¹⁴⁰ – and gazed – but little thought
What wealth¹⁴¹ the show to me had brought:

¹¹⁸ to wander /'wɒndə/ – a. (literally) stroll, roam, ramble; b. (metaphorically) be purposeless and directionless in general

¹¹⁹ o'er /ouə/ – (poetic) over

¹²⁰ vale – (poetic) valley

¹²¹ hill – small mountain

¹²² all at once – suddenly, unexpectedly

¹²³ crowd – multitude. A 'crowd' refers to a large group of people, so this is personification.

¹²⁴ host – (in this case) multitude. The use of the word 'host' probably implies 'heavenly host', i.e. Wordsworth may be comparing the daffodils to angels and/or the stars (cf. Milky Way in the second verse).

¹²⁵ beneath – underneath, under

¹²⁶ to flutter – move like a butterfly that is flying

¹²⁷ to twinkle – glitter, shine intermittently

¹²⁸ the Milky Way – the band of light across the night sky corresponding to our galaxy

¹²⁹ to stretch – extend, continue

¹³⁰ bay – inlet, cove

¹³¹ at a glance – in an instant

¹³² to toss sth. – move sth. about

¹³³ sprightly – happy, merry. However, the use of this specific word alludes to sprites (= fairies, elves) and so introduces the idea of the supernatural in folklore

¹³⁴ beside – next to

¹³⁵ to outdo (-do/-did/-done) – surpass, eclipse

¹³⁶ sparkling – glittering, iridescent

¹³⁷ glee – delight, happiness

¹³⁸ gay – (in this case) happy, joyous

¹³⁹ jocund – (poetic) happy, exuberant

¹⁴⁰ to gaze – look fixedly (mesmerized)

¹⁴¹ wealth – riches, (in this case) benefit

For **oft**¹⁴², when on my **couch**¹⁴³ I lie
In vacant or in pensive **mood**¹⁴⁴,
They flash upon that **inward eye**¹⁴⁵
Which is the **bliss of solitude**¹⁴⁶;
And then my heart with pleasure fills,
And dances with the daffodils.



You can listen to the poem at:

<http://goo.gl/cMdhe>

¹⁴² **oft** – (*poetic*) often, frequently

¹⁴³ **couch** – sofa

¹⁴⁴ **mood** – frame of mind, emotional state

¹⁴⁵ **that inward eye** – one's memory/imagination

¹⁴⁶ **the bliss of solitude** – the great pleasure of being alone with one's thoughts