**SII: Lesson 3**

**William Wordsworth's “I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud” (a Poem)**

**I-Figures of Speech**

**Figures of speech** are ways of **using language** to convey or suggest a meaning **beyond** the **literal meaning** of the word to give readers new insights. In general, the purpose of a figure of speech is to lend **texture** and **colour** to the writing.

**Assonance**: is the effect created when two syllables in words that are close together have the **same vowel** sound but **different consonants** (e.g. “b**a**ck” and “[h**a**t](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/fr/dictionnaire/anglais/hat)” / the “br**ow**n” “c**ow**”), or the **same consonants** but **different vowels** (e.g. “[**h**i**t**](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/fr/dictionnaire/anglais/hit)” and “[**h**a**t**](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/fr/dictionnaire/anglais/hat)”).

Haut du formulaire

Bas du formulaire

**Alliteration**: is the **repetition** of the **same consonant** sounds at the **beginning** of **words** that are close together to create a **musical** effect (e.g. In a **s**ummer **s**eason, when **s**oft was the **s**un).

**Simile**: the **comparison** between **two** **things** made explicit by the **use** of the words ***like*** or ***as*** (e.g. **I** wandered lonely **as** a **cloud**).

**Metaphor**: is the imaginative use of a word or phrase to describe something else, to show that the **two** unrelated **things** have the **same** **qualities**. In other words, it is comparing two unlike things that have something in **common**. The comparison is made **without** the use of ***like*** or ***as***.

e.g.All the **world’s** a **stage**

And all the **men and women** merely **players**

(The meaning here is that this **world** is like a **stage** show, and **all** human beings are **merely actors**.)

**Allegory**: is a style of writing in which each **character** or **event** is a **symbol** representing a particular quality (e.g. The **good characters** of book stand for **virtues** while the **bad characters** represent **vices**).

### Irony: [Irony](http://examples.yourdictionary.com/examples-of-irony.html) occurs when there is a marked contrast between what is said and what is meant. It is the use of words to convey the opposite of their literal meaning (e.g.“How nice!” she said, when I told her I had to work all weekend).

**II- “I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud” (Study)**

\*The poet of nature **William Wordsworth** (**1770**-**1850**), an early leader of **romanticism**, was born in England.

**“I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud”** (By [**William Wordsworth**](https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poets/william-wordsworth))

I wandered lonely as a cloud (to **wander**: to move without a purpose)

That floats on high o'er vales and hills, (**vale**: valley, a low area of land / **hill**: raised area of land)

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. (**fluttering**: waving / **breeze**: a gentle wind)

Continuous as the stars that shine

And twinkle on the milky way, (**twinkle**: glisten)

They stretched in never-ending line

Along the margin of a bay: (**bay**: a broad inlet of the sea where the land curves inward)

Ten thousand saw I at a glance,

Tossing their heads in sprightly dance. (**toss**: throw / **sprightly**: cheerful)

The waves beside them danced; but they

Out-did the sparkling waves in glee: (**outdo**: exceed/ **glee**: joy)

A poet could not but be gay, (**gay**: happy)

In such a jocund company: (**jocund**: joyful)

I gazed—and gazed—but little thought (**to gaze**: to stare, lo look fixedly)

What wealth the show to me had brought:

For oft, when on my couch I lie (**oft**: often, frequently / **couch**: sofa, bed)

In vacant or in pensive mood, (**vacant**: unoccupied / **pensive**: meditating)

They flash upon that inward eye

Which is the bliss of solitude; (**bliss**: great joy)

And then my heart with pleasure fills,

And dances with the daffodils.

**\*Stanza:** A stanza is the poetic form of some lines. In this poem, there are four stanzas with six lines in each stanza.

**\*Synopsis (Summary) and Explanation**

This poem is a lovely and wonderful literary piece of **nature’s** **description**. It was written, from the [subjective](https://literarydevices.net/subjective/) [point of view](https://literarydevices.net/point-of-view/), to capture the **bewitching** [**beauty**](https://literarydevices.net/beauty/) of the **wildflowers** and to express the deep **emotions** of the poet. The plot is simple, depicting the poet’s wandering and his discovery of a field of daffodils by a lake, the memory of which pleases him and comforts him when he is lonely and bored.

In fact, the poet says that, wandering lonely like a cloud floating above hills and valleys, he encountered a field of daffodils beside a lake. He was amazed by the beauty of those daffodils. The dancing, fluttering flowers stretched endlessly along the shore, and though the waves of the lake danced beside the flowers, the daffodils outdid the water in glee. The **poet** is metaphorically compared to a **natural** **object**, a cloud—“I wandered lonely as a cloud / That floats on high...”, and the **daffodils** are continually **personified** as **human** **beings**, dancing and “tossing their heads” in “a crowd, a host.” This technique implies an inherent **unity** between **man** and **nature**.

Moreover, the **poet** could not help but be **happy** in such a joyful company of the **flowers**. Indeed, whenever he feels “vacant” or “pensive,” the **memory** flashes upon “that inward eye / Which is the bliss of solitude,” his heart fills with **pleasure**, and he forgets all of his problems and loneliness, “and dances with the daffodils.” Therefore, the feeling of enjoying the **beauty** of **nature** and its **impact** on the human mind can leave the reader desiring to spend more time with **nature**.

## \*Analysis of Figures of Speech in “I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud”

[**Figures**](https://literarydevices.net/literary-devices/) **of speech** are used to bring **richness** and **clarity** to the texts.

[**Assonance**](https://literarydevices.net/assonance/)**:** The use of the sounds /**a**/ in “Ten thousand I saw at a glance” and /**e**/ sound in “They stretched in never-ending”

[**Alliteration**](https://literarydevices.net/alliteration/)**:** The use of /**g**/ sound in, “I gazed and gazed” and the use of /w/ sound in, “What wealth the show to me had brought”

[**Simile**](https://literarydevices.net/simile/)**:** There are **two** **similes** used in this poem. “I wandered lonely as a cloud.” He compares his **loneliness** with a single **cloud**. The second is used in the opening line of the second [stanza](https://literarydevices.net/stanza/), “Continues as the **stars** that **shine**.” Here Wordsworth compares the endless row of **daffodils** with countless **stars**.

[**Metaphor**](https://literarydevices.net/metaphor/)**:** Wordsworth has used one **metaphor** in this poem in the **last** **stanza** as “They flash upon that **inward** **eye**.” Here “inward eye” represents the sweet **memory** of daffodils.

[**Personification**](https://literarydevices.net/personification/)**:** Personification is to attribute **human** **characteristics** to **lifeless** **objects**. The poet has personified “**daffodils**” in the third line of the poem such as, “When all at once I saw a crowd.” The crowd shows the number of daffodils. The second example of personification is used in the second stanza as, “Tossing their heads and sprightly dance.” It shows that the Daffodils are humans that can dance. The third example is in the third stanza such as, “In a jocund company.”  Here he considered the daffodils as his joyful company.

The careful glimpse of this analysis shows that the poet has skillfully projected his ideas using these figures of speech.