

Analysis of "I Wandered Lonely As A Cloud" - William Wordsworth

THE TITLE

After looking at the title, the reader may expect the poem to be about somebody who's alone moving without a definite direction, probably in the country.

On a second thought the reader also realises that the title is a simile, thus creating a clear comparison between the subject of the poem and a cloud. Moreover the level of sound in the title creates the effect of a wide space thanks to the use of long open vowel sounds, that also create an assonance. The title creates a certain curiosity in the reader who might be interested in discovering the reason of the comparison.

THE DENOTATIVE ANALYSIS

The poem is about a walk the poet takes in the country and his pleasant feelings he has in front of a field of daffodils moved by the breeze.

The flowers look full of energy so that they remember a dance and they're so many that they recall a line that never ends. The waves of the lake beside also are moved by the breeze, they are not as nice as the daffodils.

The poet is totally caught by the scene and he can not but watch the flowers without thinking of their pleasant effect. It is only later when the poet is relaxed on a sofa without any worry that he is able to recreate the scene in his imagination that he perfectly understand the bliss the daffodils have brought to him.

THE CONNOTATIVE ANALYSIS

Phonological level

The ballads-like rhyme scheme helps the poet to convey the feeling of harmony to the reader and it also reminds the sounds of storytelling.

Syntactical level

The use of past tense reveals that the poet is remembering what happened and the present tense is just used in the last stanza because the poet reflects on the record, as a matter of fact that reflection is the message of the poem.

Semantic level

The predominance of terms referring to nature and the density of the first person "I" and the term "poet" in the text, provide the reader with the basic theme of relationship between the poet and nature, who is not able to comprehend until he's alone reflecting, as stated in the last stanza. This develops into the theme of sublime: in fact the contrast between singular terms referred to the poet and plural terms referred to the nature represents the enormity of nature, instead the terms "pensive mood, solitude, pleasure", in the last stanza, represent the superiority of human consciousness over nature.

Rhetorical level

The presence of many similes and personifications represents the difficulty for the poet to express his experience, thus requiring a lot of words to be described and justifying the length of the poem.