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Nature's Connection to Man in William Wordsworth's "I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud"

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Nature possesses an innocent purity that mankind can only hope to replicate. It is the most innate form of life on the planet, having been here long before the arrival of humans, and perhaps this is why it has the ability to move one so effortlessly. It can find the authenticity within all people, and this was especially evident to William Wordsworth, whose work often reflects the inherent affect nature's beauty can have (*British Literature 1780-1830*). It was on a walk with his sister that Wordsworth happened upon the flowers that would inspire his poem "I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud", just another work of his to express the charm of the world (*cummingsstudyguides*). In "I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud", Wordsworth illustrates nature's inexplicable ability to enliven the soul through the use of personification, diction choice and tone. ✓

Wordsworth's utilization of personification helps to express this grace found in nature, as well as its connection to mankind. ✓ By describing the flowers as "a crowd" (line 3), he is giving them human qualities and thus drawing a relationship between the daffodils and people. Wordsworth furthers this comparison when he describes the daffodils as "fluttering and dancing in the breeze" (line 6). Through this choice of words he is equating the flowers to a large gathering of people engaged in a lively dance, just strengthening the connection between man and nature that permeates the entire poem. ✓ Another later example of personification are the daffodils "tossing their heads in

sprightly dance" (line 12), which is one more human quality given to them in order to reinforce the parallels between the humans and the flowers. Wordsworth uses many other diction choices to illustrate the powerful feelings that nature is capable of summoning. ✓

The brilliance of the daffodils is expressed through several unique and purposeful word choices. In the second stanza Wordsworth likens them to the stars of a night sky with the passage "Continuous as the stars that shine And twinkle on the milky way" (lines 7 & 8). By comparing the flowers to the Milky Way, he adds a certain cosmic significance to them that makes them seem almost transcendent when compared to their surroundings. He furthers this notion that the daffodils are particularly special even in nature with the lines "The waves beside them danced; but they out-did the sparkling waves in glee" (lines 13 & 14). While Wordsworth uses both personification and diction choices to illustrate nature's uplifting tendencies, he also utilizes tone to great effect. *avoid value words*

An almost nostalgic tone is established to strengthen Wordsworth's theme. This is deliberately created over the course of the poem, starting with the very first lines and continuing until the end. In the opening stanza, the narrator is alone and unsure, a mood devised by the first two lines, "I wandered lonely as a cloud that floats on high o'er vales and hills" (lines 1 & 2). It is clear from this beginning that he is, if not unhappy, then at least dispirited and adrift. His disposition changes noticeably upon seeing the lakeside daffodils, and he articulates his newfound joy by saying "A poet could not but be gay, In such a jocund company" (15 & 16). By the end of the poem, the narrator has been so inspired by his encounter with the flowers that he is using their memory to bring joy to his heart, as evidenced by the lines "And then my heart with pleasure fills, And dances

with the daffodils" (lines 23 & 24). It is through these examples of tone, personification and diction choice that Wordsworth is able to bolster his theme of nature's intrinsic connection to humankind. ✓

All people deal with nature on a regular basis, and as such they have a tendency to overlook the true power it has over our emotions. Nature can move one easily, conjuring happiness from something as little as a group of flowers, and nobody understood this quite like William Wordsworth. His poem "I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud" epitomizes this affinity for nature and its beauties. ✓ Through personification, diction choices and tone, Wordsworth vividly paints nature's pleasant ability to effortlessly enliven the soul. He comprehended the value of nature's elegance in a way that few have since; the population could stand to learn something from his worldview. ✓

Works Cited

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alphanumeric

Explaining Your Writing Variables

Identify the five writing variables you have chosen for your writing task XXXXXXXXXX

Central Idea: Mankind is innately connected to nature.
 Form: Expository essay
 Purpose: Convince the reader that humans are intrinsically
 Public Audience: People interested in nature connected to
 Context: Websites or books about nature nature

can you be more specific

Explain how your chosen writing variables work together to make your text effective.

5 marks

110

My content works best in the form of an expository essay because it allows for the lengthy examination of stylistic choices such as personification, diction choices and tone.

People interested in nature and its connection to mankind will enjoy reading my essay. They would be able to locate the essay on a free website about man and nature, as well as books on the same topic. I think these people will be convinced that we are all connected to the world because I offer a compelling argument with support from William Wordsworth's poem "I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud".

My essay is important because it gives an interesting argument for our connection to nature in the appropriate form of an expository essay.