

— COMPARE AND CONTRAST IN POETRY —

“I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud” and “Still will I harvest beauty where it grows”

Read each poem twice, reading out loud the second time.

Then, answer the questions on the next page.

Words underlined for question 7 will vary.

Poem 1

“I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud”

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.

vales: valleys

sprightly: energetic and playful

jocund: highly spirited or mirthful

vacant: absent-minded or daydreaming

pensive: thoughtful, often in a sad way

Poem 2

“Still will I harvest beauty where it grows”

By Edna St. Vincent Millay

Still will I harvest beauty where it grows:
In coloured fungus and the spotted fog
Surprised on foods forgotten; in ditch and bog
Filmed brilliant with irregular rainbows
Of rust and oil, where half a city throws
Its empty tins; and in some spongy log
Whence headlong leaps the oozy emerald frog. . . .
And a black pupil in the green scum shows.
Her the inhabiter of divers places
Surmising at all doors, I push them all.
Oh, you that fearful of a creaking hinge
Turn back forevermore with **craven** faces,
I tell you Beauty bears an ultra fringe
Ungessed of you upon her **gossamer** shawl!

whence: from what place

divers: alternate spelling of diverse, meaning varied or different from each other

surmising: speculating or guessing

craven: cowardly

gossamer: extremely light or delicate

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“I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud” and “Still will I harvest beauty where it grows”

Answer the following questions about the two poems.

1. Fill in the chart below with details about each poem’s structure. Consider each poem’s type, form, shape, stanzas, rhyme scheme, rhythm, and repetition.

Poem 1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • four stanzas of six lines each • eight syllables per line/ iambic tetrameter • a clear rhyme scheme: ABABCC • stanzas ending with a rhyming couplet
Poem 2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the form of a sonnet (Petrarchan) • fourteen lines with ten syllables each/ iambic pentameter • one stanza • eight lines (two quatrains) with a repeating rhyme scheme: ABBA • six ending lines with a different rhyme scheme: CDECED

2. Write one or two words to describe the tone of each poem. Note that it is possible for a single poem to have more than one tone.

Poem 1: playful, mirthful, reflective

Poem 2: curious, adventurous, challenging

3. How do the rhymes and meter in “I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud” reflect the tone of the poem?

The regular meter and easy, clear rhyming words reflect the cheerful, playful tone.

4. In “Still will I harvest beauty where it grows,” how do the last four lines reflect a shift in tone?

The last four lines address the audience directly for the first time. These lines almost dare a fearful audience to follow the speaker to find beauty in unusual places.

5. Part A Give an example of how each poet uses personification in the poems above.

St. Vincent Millay personifies beauty, calling it “her,” and portrays her wearing a “gossamer shawl.”

Wordsworth personifies the daffodils by describing them as “tossing their heads in sprightly dance.”

5. Part B What similar effect do these uses of personification have on the meaning of the poems?

Both uses of personification emphasize the extent and meaning of the beauty each speaker experiences.

6. Each poem addresses the idea of beauty, but the authors approach this topic in different ways. Which of the following themes best fits each poem? Write 1 for the Wordsworth poem, 2 for the Millay poem, and X for neither.

X Nature is the only true source of beauty.

1 The memory of beauty can lift the spirit.

X Beauty is powerful but fleeting.

2 Beauty can be found in unlikely places if one is willing to look.

X The most beautiful things in life can only be enjoyed with others.

7. Fill out the table below to compare and contrast where each speaker finds beauty. Underline words in each poem that support your answers.

Poem 1	Poem 2
<u>The speaker finds beauty in flowers, stars, and water.</u>	<u>The speaker finds beauty in rotting and dirty places.</u>
Both	
<u>The speakers in both poems find beauty in their natural surroundings.</u>	