



Comic Strip Poetry

Objective

The goal of this lesson is to help students understand and interpret figurative language in poetry.

Cognitive Levels/Content Areas

This lesson incorporates the cognitive level of analysis and the content area of poetry.

Materials

Have ready one set of the following for each group of 3–5 students:

- print version of William Wordsworth’s “I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud” (see page D5)
- comic strip version of “I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud” (see pages D6–D8)
- question sheet for “I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud” (see page D9)
- print version of Emily Dickinson’s “Hope” (see page D10)
- blank paper
- colored pencils, markers, etc.

Directions

1. Divide students into groups (3–5 students per group), and pass out copies of the print and comic-strip versions of Wordsworth’s poem. Have groups read each version and complete the question sheet. Discuss the answers to the question sheet with the class as a whole.
2. Have students break into original groups, and pass out copies of the print version of Dickinson’s poem, blank paper, and colored pencils or markers. Have groups read the poem and create their own comic strip version interpreting the literal meaning of the language in the poem. Then, have each group write an analysis of what is happening in the poem in terms of the figurative language. Discuss each group’s comic strip and analysis with the class as a whole.

Answers to Question Sheet

1. From what viewpoint does the poet observe nature?
The poet observes nature from the viewpoint of a cloud.
2. To what does the poet compare the arrangement of the daffodils in the second stanza?
The poet compares the arrangement of the daffodils to stars in the Milky Way.
3. In which descriptions does the poet attribute human traits to something nonhuman?
“Tossing their heads in a sprightly dance” (the daffodils); “The waves beside them danced; but they/ Out-did the sparkling waves in glee”; “And then my heart with pleasure fills,/ And dances with the daffodils.”
4. In your opinion, which words best describe the poet’s feelings about nature?
Joyful, uplifting, exuberant, etc....

I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud

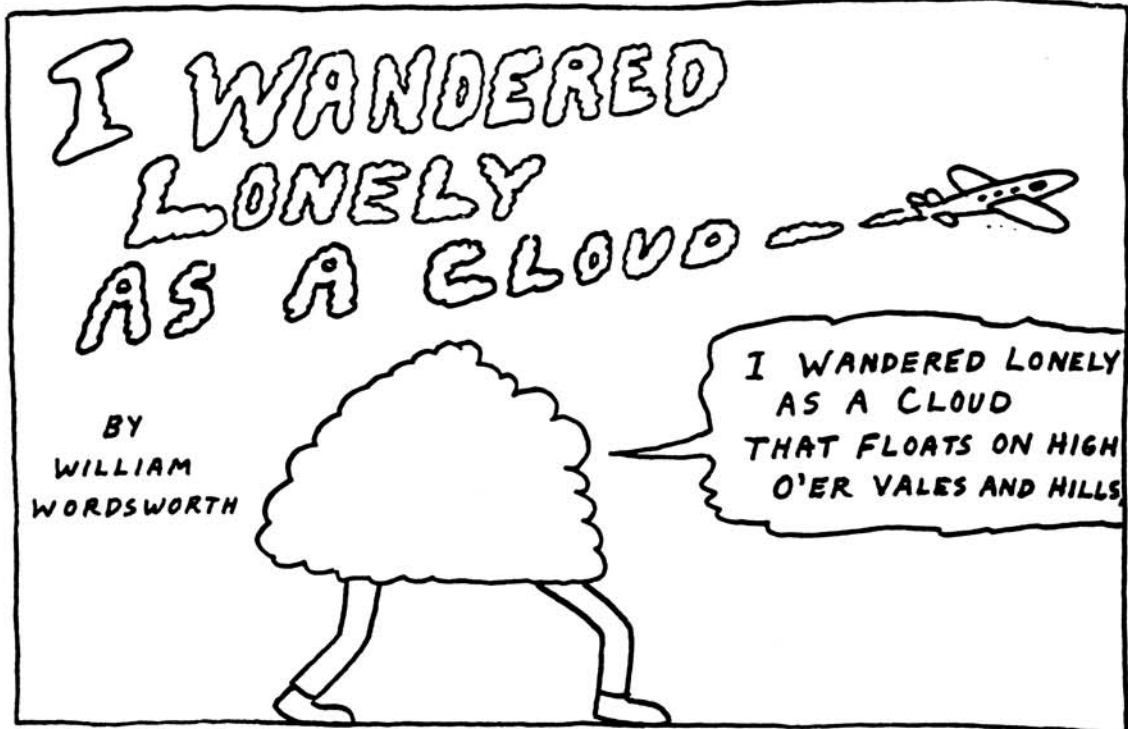
I wandered lonely as a cloud
That floats on high o'er vales and hills,
When all at once I saw a crowd,
A host, of golden daffodils,
5 Beside the lake, beneath the trees,
Fluttering and dancing in the breeze.

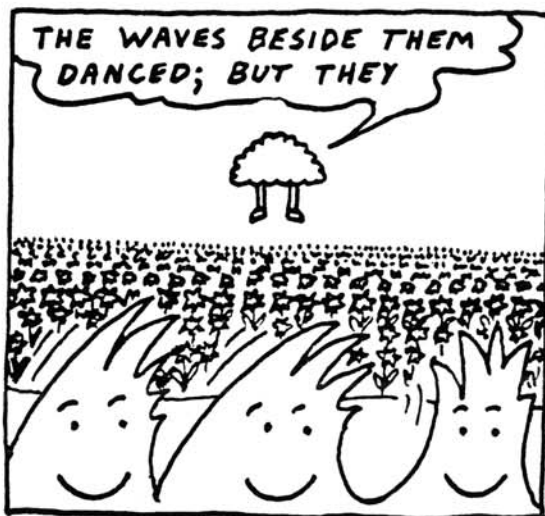
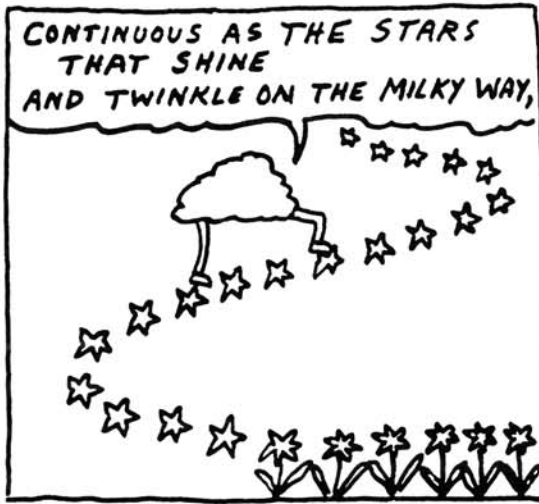
Continuous as the stars that shine
And twinkle on the milky way,
They stretched in never-ending line
10 Along the margin of a bay:
Ten thousand saw I at a glance,
Tossing their heads in sprightly dance.

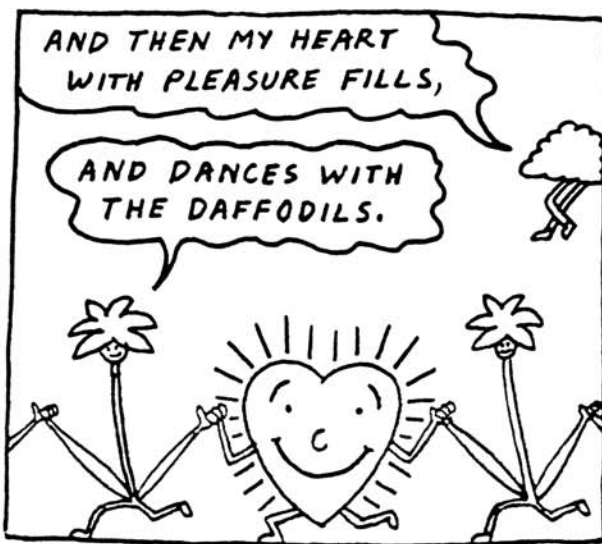
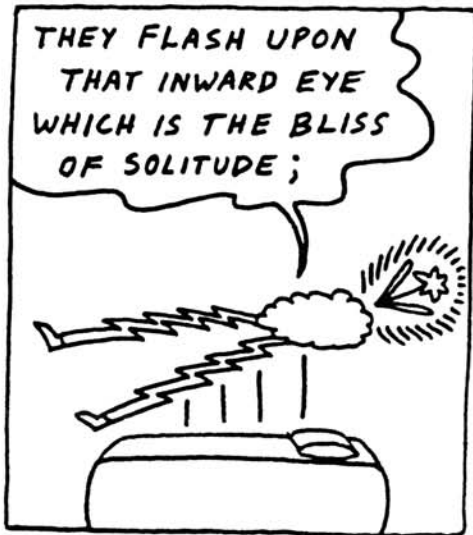
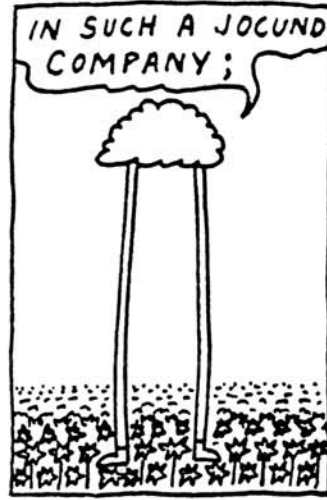
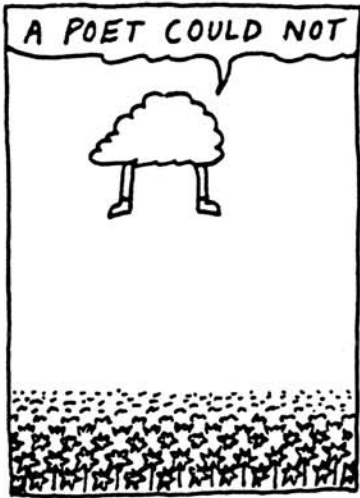
The waves beside them danced; but they
Out-did the sparkling waves in glee:
15 A poet could not but be gay,
In such a jocund company:
I gazed—and gazed—but little thought
What wealth the show to me had brought

For oft, when on my couch I lie
20 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.

~ William Wordsworth, 1804







END

Name _____ Class _____

Question Sheet—“I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud”

Directions: Answer each of the following questions.

1. From what viewpoint does the poet observe nature?

2. To what does the poet compare the arrangement of the daffodils in the second stanza?

3. In which descriptions does the poet attribute human traits to something nonhuman?

4. In your opinion, which words best describe the poet’s feelings about nature?

Hope

Hope is the thing with feathers
That perches in the soul,
And sings the tune without the words,
And never stops at all,

5 And sweetest in the gale is heard;
And sore must be the storm
That could abash the little bird
That kept so many warm.

I've heard it in the chillest land,
10 And on the strangest sea;
Yet, never, in extremity,
It asked a crumb of me.

~ Emily Dickinson