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.
British Romanticism
Of all the famous poems of Wordsworth, none is more famous than "I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud". To fully understand the poem and any William Wordsworth poetry analysis, a brief look at the tenets of British Romanticism is in order. British Romantics emphasized the following:

**The Beauty of the Supernatural** - a William Wordsworth poetry analysis will invariably identify a connection between nature and the supernatural. "I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud" is no exception.

**The Importance of Nature** - The obvious theme of the poem is the beauty of nature and its ability to allow one to connect with God.

**Championing the Individual** - The narrator's experience in the meadow is personal and individual.

**The Dangers of Technology** - There is no overt reference to technology. Romantics, however feared that man's ability to connect with nature was being compromised by technological advances.

William Wordsworth

- **Rhyme Scheme** - ababcc - the rhyming couplet at the end of each stanza produces a natural break to go along with the natural break caused by a new stanza. The last line of each stanza, therefore, carries added emphasis.
- **Meter** - iambic tetrameter. The meter creates a song like rhythm, a rhythm to which daffodils might dance. Wordsworth also uses alliteration to create rhythm.
- **use of imagery to create pictures in the readers mind - a host of daffodils etc.**
- **Line 1 - A simile** - comparing the narrator to a cloud, making him at one with nature. The comparison to the cloud suggests free floating and drowsiness.
- **Line 7 uses a simile** to compare the procession of daffodils to the eternity of the stars in the milky way, creating a link between Nature and the Universe which links the narrator to the Universe.
- **Line 9 uses hyperbole** to express the vastness of the vision, an eternal vastness perhaps: "They stretched in never-ending line."
- **Line 12 uses personification.** The daffodils have become a living entity.
- **Line 13 uses personification and comparison.** The waves danced too, but they do not produce the glee the daffodils have created.

**Theme:**
In order to understand oneself and one's place in the universe, one must connect with nature.