

Ode: On the Intimations of Immortality from Recollections of Early Childhood.

by William Wordsworth  
(2 - April - 1770)

William Wordsworth was an English Romantic poet who, with Samuel Taylor Coleridge, helped to launch the Romantic Age in English literature with their joint publication Lyrical Ballads (1798).

William Wordsworth was one of the founders of English Romanticism and one its most central figures and important intellects. He is remembered as a poet of spiritual and a poet concerned with the human relationship to nature.

Father - John

Mother - Ann Cookson Wordsworth,

Born - in Cockermouth Cumberland, located in the Lake District of England.

He began writing poetry as a young boy in grammar school, and before graduating from college.

"The Prelude" a Romantic epic poem chronicling the "growth of a poet's mind."

His important works.

- 1) The Prelude - 1850
- 2) The Solitary Reaper - 1807
- 3) The world is too much with us.
- 4) I wandered Daffodils
- 5) I wandered lonely as a cloud.

It is a poem by William Wordsworth, completed in 1804 and published in Poems, in two volumes. The poem was completed in two parts.

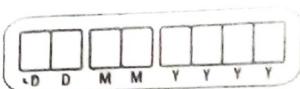
- \* It is about [human feelings], time and the journey of a small child to youth.
- \* Nature seems dream.
- \* Seven colours of rainbow, Beautiful flower and the moon.

William gives us the idea of four things;

- \* The Soul's immortality
- \* Childhood wonder and the pain of growing up
- \* Memories
- \* The Beauty and the Divinity of Nature.

Wordsworth explores themes :

1. Youth ✓
2. Age ✓
3. Religion ✓
4. Spirituality ✓
5. Nature ✓



## Ode on the Intimations of Immortality.

### Ode : Intimations of Immortality

from Recollections of Early childhood is a poem completed in 1804 and published in poems in Two Volumes (1804). The poem was completed in two parts, with the first four stanzas written among a series of poems composed stanzas written - am in 1802 about childhood. The first part of the poem was completed on 9<sup>th</sup> March 1802 and fellow poet,

Samuel Taylor Coleridge, who responded with his own poem, Dejection: An Ode, in April. The fourth stanza of the ode ends with a question, and Wordsworth was finally able to answer it with 7 additional stanzas completed in early 1804. It was first printed as ode in 1804, and it was not until 1815 that it was edited and reworked to the version that is currently known, Ode : Intimations of Immortality.

The poem is an irregular Pindaric ode in 11 stanzas that combines aspects of Coleridge's Conversation poems, the religious sentiments of the Bible and the works of saint Augustine, and aspects of the elegiac and apocalyptic traditions. It is split into three movements :

The poem relies on the concept of pre-existence, the idea that the soul existed & existed before the body, to connect children with the ability to witness the divine within nature. Wordsworth has expressed his views on transmigration of the soul in this poem.

DDMMYY

## ~~Summary~~ ~~Notes~~

In the first stanza, the speaker says wistfully that there was a time when all of nature seemed dreamlike to him, but that that time is past; "the things I have seen I can see no more".

In the second stanza he says that he still sees the rainbow, and that the rose is still lovely; the moon looks around the sky with delight, and starlight and sunshine are each beautiful. Nonetheless the speaker feels that a glory has passed away from the earth.

In the third stanza, the speaker says that, while listening to the birds sing in springtime and watching the young lambs leap and play, he was stricken with a thought of grief; but the sound of nearby waterfalls, the echoes of the mountains, and the questioning of the winds restored him to strength. He declares that his grief will no longer wrong the joy of the season, and that all the earth is happy. He exhorts a shepherd boy to shout and play around him.

In the fourth stanza, he addresses nature's creatures and says that his heart participates in their joyful festival. He says that it would be wrong to feel sad on such a beautiful may morning, while children play and laugh among the flowers.

Parrot  
↳ It is a type of large flowered hybrid plant cultivated as a golden flower.

D	D	M	M	Y	Y	Y	Y
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Nevertheless, a tree and a field that he looks upon make him think of "Something that is gone" and a pansy at his feet does the same. He asks what has happened to "the visionary gleam": "Where is it now, the glory and the dream?" In the fifth stanza, he proclaims that human life is merely just "a sleep and a forgetting" — that human beings ~~decell~~ live in a purer, more glorious <sup>idealistic</sup> realm before they enter the earth. "Heaven", he says, "lies about us in our infancy!" As children, we still retain <sup>reserve</sup> some memory of that place, which causes our experience of the earth to be suffused <sup>to spread</sup> with its magic — but as the baby passes through boyhood and young adulthood and into manhood, he sees that magic die.

In the sixth stanza, the speaker says that the pleasures unique to earth conspire to help the man forget the "glories" whence he came.

In the seventh stanza, the speaker beholds a six-year old boy and imagines his life, and the love his mother and father feel for him. He sees the boy playing with some I imitated fragment of adult life, "Some little plan or chart" imitating "a wedding or a festival" or "a mourning or a funeral." The speaker imagines that all human life is a similar imitation.

In the eighth stanza, the speaker addresses the child as though he ~~was~~ were a mighty prophet of a lost truth, and rhetorically asks him why, when he has access<sup>entry</sup> to the glories of his origins, and to the pure experience of nature. He still hurries toward an adult life of custom and "earthly freight." "burden"

In the ninth stanza, the speaker experiences a surge<sup>blood</sup> of joy at the thought that his memories of childhood will always grant him a kind of access to that lost world of instinct, innocence, and exploration, a way of behaving thinking support

In the tenth stanza, bolstered by this joy, he urges the birds to sing, and urges all creatures to participate in the gladness of the May. He says that though he has lost some part of the glory of nature and of experience, he will take solace<sup>comfort</sup> in "primal sympathy," in memory, and in the fact that the years bring a mature consciousness - "a philosophic mind."

In the final stanza, the speaker says that this mind - which stems<sup>arises</sup> from a consciousness of mortality, as opposed to the child's feeling of immortality - enables<sup>complement</sup> him to love nature and natural beauty all the more, for each of nature's objects can stir<sup>mix</sup> him to thought, and even the simplest flower blowing in the wind can raise in him "thoughts that do often lie too deep for te-