

Three Years She Grew

By

William Wordsworth



DDE

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Paper No. A


Lesson No. 1

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Introduction

This presentation illustrates, 'Three Years She Grew in Sun and Shower' one of *Lucy Poems* by William Wordsworth. You must read the poem carefully to understand Wordsworth's belief that Nature is 'the nurse', 'the guide' and the guardian of man. In this poem Mother Nature adopts a foster daughter and resolves to inspire nobility in her and exercise check on her evil thoughts.


A stylized, teal-colored silhouette of a mountain range is positioned in the bottom right corner of the slide, partially overlapping the yellow background.

Contents

1. Stanzawise paraphrase,
2. Vocabulary
3. Questions

Objectives


This presentation will enable you to :

1. Study explanation of the poem contained in lesson No. 25.
 2. Read and appreciate poems by William Wordsworth.
 3. understand what the poet wants to convey through this simple narrative lyric.
 4. understand the meaning of difficult words of the poem and expressions.
 5. improve your writing skills.
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About the poet

1. William Wordsworth (1770-1850) has been called the pioneer of Romantic Movement in English poetry.
2. Born in Cumberland in a middle class family in Lake District, Wordsworth spent his boyhood moving among hills and valleys of his native place.
3. Wordsworth perceived nature as a divine spirit that pervaded the cosmos.
4. 'The Excursion', 'Tintern Abbey', 'Michael' 'Ode on the Intimations of Immortality', 'Solitary Reaper', 'Daffodils', 'Cuckoo' and 'The World is too Much with Us' are Wordsworth's fine examples to be read to understand his romantic theory of poetry.

About the poem

1. The poem is a fine assertion of Wordsworth's conviction that nature is man's best educator, guide and friend.
 2. This is one of Lucy Poems composed in the Hartz Forest during the poet's sojourn in Germany. These poems were first published in *Lyrical Ballads*.
 3. It is about an imaginary girl whom Mother Nature takes into its custody.
 4. Nature accomplishes the task of rearing the girl but unfortunately the girl dies and becomes a part of nature itself.
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Stanzawise paraphrase


Stanza - 1

- Nature resolves to educate and rear Lucy - the three year old loveliest child.

Stanza - 2

- She decides to keep Lucy in her own company, away from cities and schools in a beautiful valley.
- She would instill in her the laws that will govern her conduct and at the same time fill her with impulses that will impel Lucy to act accordingly.

Stanza - 3

- Observing the energetic young deer scampering joyfully in lawns and mountains, Lucy would grow playful and vibrant.
 - Lifeless objects like rocks and mountains would make Lucy a living picture of silence and peace.
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Stanza - 4

- She will borrow the graceful movements of floating clouds and follow the humility and grace that the bending willow plants display.
- Lucy would not fail to detect the dignity and majestic glory in the storm and will by its example quietly borrow this dignity that would shape her body.
- Lucy would grow to be nature loving.
- She would love to stare at midnight stars.
- She would respond to the bubbling sound of dancing rivers. Her face would absorb the beauty of nature.

Stanza - 5

- Amidst congenial surroundings Lucy would attain graceful womanhood.

Stanza - 6

- This stanza declares the sudden and pre-mature death of Lucy after mother nature's job is finished.
- The poet feels that in the event of death Lucy again becomes a part of nature.

Vocabulary

She - Lucy (in the given context of Lucy poems); *Sun and shower* - different seasons of Nature; *Take* - (here) to keep in her custody; *Law and impulse* - guiding and inspiring force; *Glade* - clear, open space in a forest; *Bower* - shady place under trees or climbing plants; *Overseeing power* - all-pervasive presence, influence of nature; *Kindle* - excite; *Restrain* - put a check; *Sportive* - play a check; *Wild with glee* - extreme happiness, ecstatic; *Breathing balm* - the vital (life-giving) air would act as soothing balm, balmy breath; *Insensate things* - Inanimate objects; *Willow* - kind of tree, thin, easily bent through wind; *Storm* - strong wind; *Maiden's form* - Lucy's outward appearance; *Sympathy* - influence; *Secret* - quiet; *Rivulets* - small rivers; *Wayward* - without control; *Vital* - life-giving; *Dell* - a small valley.

Questions

1. The poet compares Lucy to a 'fawn'. Do you consider the comparison 'apt' why?
2. Explain the expressions 'overseeing power', 'breathing balm' and 'murmuring sound'.
3. What does the poet tell us about Lucy's education?
4. Write a detailed note on the imagery in the poem.

