

Examrace

The Solitary Reaper: Contents, Introduction and Details of the Poem

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Introduction to the Poet

William Wordsworth

- Born: 7th April,1770,Cockermouth,UK.
- English Romantic Poet, Nature's poet.
- "Poetry is a spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings"



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Details of the Poem

- William Wordsworth and his sister Dorothy Wordsworth trip to Scotland.
- Pub. In Poems in Two Volumes in 1807.
- Lyrical ballad.
- 32 lines and 4 stanzas.

Summary of the Poem

Stanza 1

- Behold her, single in the field,
- Yon solitary Highland Lass!
- Reaping and singing by herself.
- Stop here, or gently pass!
- Alone she cuts and binds the grain,
- And sings a melancholy strain.

- listen! for the Vale profound
- Is overflowing with the sound.
- Behold - look
- Solitary - Alone
- Lass - Young woman
- Melancholy - sad sand
- Vale - valley
- Look the woman who is reaping and singing a sad song
- Listen or gently pass.
- The valley echoes her song.

Stanza 2

- No Nightingale did ever chaunt
- More welcome notes to weary bands
- Of travelers in some shady haunt,
- Among Arabian sands:
- A voice so thrilling ne'er was heard
- In springtime from the Cuckoo-bird,
- Breaking the silence of the seas
- Among the farthest Hebrides.
- Chaunt - sing
- Haunt - stay
- Hebrides - group of islands
- Compares the song with two birds
- The refreshing voice of Nightingale
- The thrilling voice of Cuckoo
- Her song is much sweeter than them.

Stanza 3

- Will no one tell me what she sings?—

- Perhaps the plaintive numbers flow
- For old, unhappy, far-off things,
- And battles long ago:
- Or is it some more humble lay,
- Familiar matter of to-day?
- Some natural sorrow, loss, or pain,
- That has been, and may be again?
- Perhaps - by chance
- Humble - unpretending
- Lay - Cause
- The poet guesses the theme of the song which may be based on old battles or tragedies.
- Also, may be sorrow, pain or loss.
- Or suffering of human life.

Stanza 4

- Whate'er the theme, the Maiden sang
- As if her song could have no ending.
- I saw her singing at her work,
- And o'er the sickle bending;—
- I listened, motionless and still.
- And, as I mounted up the hill,
- The music in my heart I bore,
- Long after it was heard no more.
- Maiden - a girl
- Mount - climb
- Sickle - reaping hook
- The poet does not need the theme of the song. But it refreshes the soul.
- Still she sings the song which seems no ending.
- Poet's heart bore this song though many years passed.

Sum Up

- Stanza 1-The Poet introduces the the woman who is reaping and singing a sad song.
- Stanza 2 -The poet compares the song with two birds
- Stanza 3-The poet guesses the theme of the song
- Stanza 4 -Poet's heart bore this song forever.

Dose Questions

1. When was the poem The Solitary Reaper published?

Answer: 1807

2. Which bird voice has the power to refresh the tired travellers of Arabian deserts?

Answer: The Nightingale

3. How many lines are there in the poem, "The Solitary Reaper"?

Answer: 32 lines

-Manishika

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