

10 POETRY IN ENGLISH

5 And I watered it in fears,
Night and morning with my tears;
And I sunned it with smiles,
And with soft deceitful wiles.

10 And it grew both day and night,
Till it bore an apple bright.
And my foe beheld it shine,
And he knew that it was mine,

15 And into my garden stole
When the night had veiled the pole;¹
In the morning glad I see
My foe outstretched beneath the tree.

Questions

1. Can you explain why the poem is called *A Poison Tree*?
2. Why was the speaker's anger with his friend soon over?
3. What grows out of speaker's anger?
4. What kind of rhythm is Blake using? What is its effect?
5. Explain the contrast in the first stanza.
6. What sort of person do you find the speaker of this poem to be?
7. Blake starts seven lines with "and"; what quality does this repetition give the poem?
8. How does the title help us in our understanding and evaluation of the poem?



Composed Upon Westminster Bridge

William Wordsworth

Earth has not anything to show more fair:
Dull would he be of soul who could pass by
A sight so touching in its majesty;
This City now doth, like a garment, wear
The beauty of the morning; silent, bare,
Ships, towers, domes, theaters, and temples, lie

5

1. Sky.

Open unto the fields, and to the sky;
All bright and glittering in the smokeless air,
Never did sun more beautifully steep
In his first splendor, valley, rock, or hill;
Ne'er saw I, never felt, a calm so deep!
The river glideth at his own sweet will:
Dear God! the very houses seem asleep:
And all that mighty heart is lying still!

10

Questions

1. At what time of day is the poem set?
2. What sights does the poet see around him?
3. What emotions does the scene evoke for the speaker?
4. What "garment" is the city wearing?
5. Why is the air "smokeless"?
6. Where is the city located?
7. How does the city represent a person in one vital respect?
8. In lines 9-10, the poet sums up his reaction to his own description of the first eight lines. State his reaction in your own words.
9. Read the poem aloud. How does the very sound of the words help to convey the feeling of the poem?



When I Was One-And-Twenty

A.E. Housman

When I was one-and-twenty
I heard a wise man say
"Give crowns and pounds and guineas!¹
But not your heart away;
Give pearls away and rubies
But keep your fancy free".
But I was one-and-twenty,
No use to talk to me.

5

When I was one-and-twenty
I heard him say again,

10

1. Crowns ... guineas: Denominations of money.