Daffodils

William Wordsworth
Daffodils By William Wordsworth

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.

http://youtu.be/35uXO7DpT2U
The title of this poem is ‘Daffodils.’
It is called this as the theme of the poem is directly linked with the poet’s personal experience with a field of daffodils. The poet is reflecting on a memory and describes it in the poem.
THEME
The theme of this poem is nature but there are a few spin off themes like happiness, memories and a past personal experience.
The poem "Daffodils" has a very constant structure. It has four stanzas each with six lines, with roughly eight syllables in each line.
POETIC TECHNIQUES

**Hyperbole:** *they stretched in a never ending line’* -

the poet exaggerates this quote by implying that the amount of daffodils in the field is infinite, but it does eventually end, it is just a large field of flowers. This makes the reader think that the amount of daffodils in the field is infinite.

**Personification:** *‘tossing their heads in sprightly dance’* -

the poet describes the flowers as living beings, tossing their heads purposely, but instead the breeze is blowing their heads back for them. This would make the reader think that the daffodils were living beings and had human characteristics.

**Imagery:** *‘I wandered lonely as a cloud that floats on high o’er vales and hills.’* -

The poet uses vocab and descriptive language to create vivid images of a single cloud, floating over hills and valleys. This allows the reader to create an image similar to the poet.
**Simile:** ‘Continuous as the stars that shine.’ - the poet compares the daffodils with the stars of the milky way using a simile. This allows the reader to create an image.

**Assonance:** ‘Fluttering and dancing in the breeze.’ - the poet repeats the vowel sound in this sentence in the poem. The poet does this to add rhythm to the poem, and make it sound pleasant to the reader.
Daffodils - Translation

‘I wandered lonely as a cloud that floats on high o’er vales and hills.’ - The poet describes his loneliness, comparing his emotion to an isolated cloud, broken off from the rest. As he roams around, walking over valleys 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.’ - Here the poet describes stumbling upon a large crowd (thousands of daffodils) of daffodils, he notices them dancing in the breeze (The breeze is allowing them to move, therefore it seems like they’re dancing in the breeze).
'Continuous as the stars that shine and twinkle on the milky way, they stretched in a never ending line along the margin of the bay.' - The poet is comparing the mass of stars in the night sky, to the large quantity of daffodils before him. He saw thousands of daffodils, and it appeared as if they were infinite.

'Ten thousand I saw at a glance, tossing their heads in a sprightly dance.' - The poet yet again emphasizes the amount of daffodils he can see. He uses the word 'sprightly', which means, lively, full of energy. But 'spritely' comes from the word 'sprite.' A sprite was a greek fairy which inhabited nature, similar to a spriggan. The author uses this word subtly, as if almost describing the daffodils as lively, spirited fairies.
‘The waves beside them danced; but they out-did the sparkling waves in glee.’ - The poet now describes the waves dancing along with the daffodils, but the daffodils appear to be happier than the waves and they therefore out-did them with happiness.

‘A poet could not but be gay, in such a jocund company.’ - The poet shows that his loneliness has dissipated into happiness (‘gay’), because of his company. Here he is referring to the daffodils and the waves as being his companions (‘company’), his friends.  

‘I gazed--and gazed--but little thought what wealth the show to me had brought.’ The poet explains, that even though he was amazed and loved watching the daffodils, he didn’t think he acknowledged the scene/show that was before him.
‘For oft, when on my couch I lie in vacant or in pensive mood.’ The poet tells us that he usually lies on his couch, in a blank, disinterested mood, or a thoughtful or reflective mood, ‘pensive’. However, pensive usually refers to thoughts of sadness. Therefore, when the poet lies on his couch, he is usually in a blank state, or quite sad or glum.

‘They flash upon that inward eye which is the bliss of solitude.’ - The poet describes, that when he is unhappy, the memory of the daffodils flashes across his field of vision, and bring him happiness. The memory is his, and his alone and therefore its joyful in a way, because it is his memory alone.

‘And then my heart with pleasure fills, and dances with the daffodils’ - Whenever the image of the daffodils is displayed in his memory, it makes his feeling of loneliness disappear just like when he first saw them. His heart matches the same happiness of the daffodils, and dances along with them.
Tone

At the beginning of the poem, the mood the poet portrayed in the poem was loneliness and sadness. He did this by comparing himself to a single cloud, isolated from the rest. However clouds usually come together in the sky, but here he describes only a single cloud.

‘I wandered lonely as a cloud.’

But as the poem progresses, the mood of the poem transitions from sadness/loneliness to happiness. The poet does this by reflecting on a memory of ‘a host of golden daffodils.’ He constantly mentions the joy and the wealth that the daffodils brought him, and finalizes the poem with a line that shows us that he was happy and no longer lonely, and this was because of the daffodils.

‘And then my heart with pleasure fills, and dances with the daffodils.’