

Wordsworth- “Solitary Reaper” Analysis

Answer these questions in note form in the back of your exercise books first- you can fill in the worksheet when we discuss it together in class.

1. How does the poet emphasise the fact that the girl in the poem is by herself?

2. Why do you think he does not give us much description of what the girl looks like? What is the real interest of the poet in this scene?

3. Why do you think he puts no other characters in this scene along with the girl? What would it change if he did?

4. Why does he talk about Arabia and the Hebrides when comparing her voice to birdsong?

5. What is the mood or atmosphere of the scene the narrator describes? Find words that create this atmosphere.

6. What narrative perspective is the poem told from? Who do you think or feel the narrator is talking to in it?

7. Look at the last verse- what effect has the scene had upon the poet and for how long does the scene stay with him?

8. What is different about the last verse of the poem compared to the rest of it? Look closely at the grammar... that's your clue! When/ if you spot the difference, why has the poet done this?