

**The Woodspurge**  
**Daniel Gabriel Rossetti (1828-1892)**

The wind flapp'd loose, the wind was still,

Shaken out dead from tree and hill:

I had walk'd on at the wind's will,--

I sat now, for the wind was still.

Between my knees my forehead was,--

My lips, drawn in, said not Alas!

My hair was over in the grass,

My naked ears heard the day pass.

My eyes, wide open, had the run

Of some ten weeds to fix upon;

Among those few, out of the sun,

The woodspurge flower'd, three cups in one.

From perfect grief there need not be

Wisdom or even memory:

One thing then learnt remains to me,--

The woodspurge has a cup of three.

1] The woodspurge, a plant of the very large genus *Euphorbia*, has a cup-like flower.

**Pre-reading:**

How do you relate to the word 'grief'? What does one shortcoming/ weakness/ urge/yearning in your life defines the word 'grief' to you?

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Interview your partner regarding the aforementioned question. Record their observation.

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**While Reading:**

**First Impression:**

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**Second Reading:**

**I Identify and comment on the :**

i. **Title**

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ii. **Rhyme**

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iii. **Monosyllabic words**

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iv. **End-stopped lines**

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v. **Rhyme Scheme**

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*Reading for Meaning:*

**Stanza 1:**

Identify the persona /narrator and the setting of the poem.

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What is the mood created by the first stanza?

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What is effect of the repetition of 'wind'?

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How does the alliteration on ' w ' affect the rhythm?

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**Stanza 2**

What is the tone of this stanza? What effect does it generate?

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What does the repetition of ' My ' bring you to?

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What are the overall feelings created by the first 2 stanzas?

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**Stanza 3**

How is a sudden change of attitude introduced in the first line ?

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How does a randomly observed object , directs the persona to his own misery?

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**Stanza 4**

Do you find the persona to be at peace with himself?

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How is the oxymoron 'perfect grief' presented here?

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**Essay Question:**

How does the poet of The Woodspurge create an acute sense of despair in his poem?

**Thesis Generator:**

- An expression of extreme grief and bereavement
- Finding comfort and solace in nature
- Simplicity of syntax and imagery with themes that concentrate on creating emotional effect
- Underlying tone of grief and despair
- Grief –stricken narrator in an outdoor setting/ unspecified geographical setting
- The persona in an emotional state observes the details of the woodspurge , a species of weed that has a three-part blossom
- Use of nature as a framework for the expression of the mental and emotional state of the narrator.