

# Solitude

Laugh, and the world laughs with you;  
Weep, and you weep alone;  
For the sad old earth must borrow its mirth,  
But has trouble enough of its own.  
Sing, and the hills will answer;  
Sigh, it is lost on the air;  
The echoes bound to a joyful sound,  
But shrink from voicing care.

Rejoice, and men will seek you;  
Grieve, and they turn and go;  
They want full measure of all your pleasure,  
But they do not need your woe.  
Be glad, and your friends are many;  
Be sad, and you lose them all,—  
There are none to decline your nectared wine,  
But alone you must drink life's gall.

Feast, and your halls are crowded;  
Fast, and the world goes by.  
Succeed and give, and it helps you live,  
But no man can help you die.  
There is room in the halls of pleasure  
For a large and lordly train,  
But one by one we must all file on  
Through the narrow aisles of pain.

- *Ella Wheeler Wilcox*

## Questions:

### Research and Discussion Questions

Have you ever been alone? How did you feel?

## QUESTIONS

1. Complete the passage below.

**List: experiences, embrace, growth, lonely, ourselves, peaceful, self-discovery, serene, solitude, world**

In this poem, Wilcox paints a picture of what it's like to be in \_\_\_\_\_.

She talks about how it can be \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, like being in your own little \_\_\_\_\_. But she also acknowledges that it can be a bit lonely at times. Who wouldn't feel a little \_\_\_\_\_ when there's no one around to talk to or share \_\_\_\_\_ with?

But here's the thing - Wilcox doesn't see solitude as a bad thing. In fact, she believes that it's necessary for personal \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

She encourages us to \_\_\_\_\_ our alone time and use it as an opportunity to \_\_\_\_\_ and learn about \_\_\_\_\_.

2. What is the theme of this poem?

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3. What is the purpose of the poem?

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4. What is the tone of this poem?

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5. According to the poem, how does solitude helps us?

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6. According to the poem, what attracts friendship?

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7. How does one get solitude?

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8. What lesson can you learn from the poem "Solitude"?

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9. Visualization Activity: Draw what solitude looks like?