

The World Is Too Much With Us

The world is too much with us; late and soon,
Getting and spending, we lay waste our powers;—
Little we see in Nature that is ours;
We have given our hearts away, a sordid boon!
This Sea that bears her bosom to the moon;
The winds that will be howling at all hours,
And are up-gathered now like sleeping flowers;
For this, for everything, we are out of tune;
It moves us not. Great God! I'd rather be
A Pagan suckled in a creed outworn;
So might I, standing on this pleasant lea,
Have glimpses that would make me less forlorn;
Have sight of Proteus rising from the sea;
Or hear old Triton blow his wreathèd horn.

- *William Wordsworth*

Questions:

Research and Discussion Questions

What is a pagan?

Who is Proteus and Triton?

What is materialism and consumerism?

QUESTIONS

1. Complete the passage below.

List: consumerism, nature, material, materialistic, shallow, spiritual wealth

In the poem "*The World is Too Much With Us*" by William Wordsworth, the poet expresses his discontent with the _____ and _____ nature of society. He laments the loss of connection with _____ and the _____ essence of life. Wordsworth criticizes the obsession with _____ and _____, which, he believes, has led humanity to distance themselves from the beauty and power of the natural world.

2. What is the theme of this poem?

3. What is the purpose of the poem?

4. What is the tone of this poem?

5. What is the writer not happy about?

6. What does the writer think the people are preoccupied doing?

7. What does the writer urge the reader to do"?

8. What is the writer referring to as a "sordid boon"?

9. Why would the writer prefer to be a "Pagan"?

10. Why would the writer prefer to see Proteus and Triton?

11. What does the writer long for?
