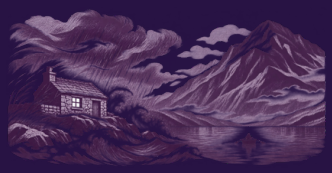
EXTRACT FROM THE PRELUDE



William Wordsworth

WHAT HAPPENS? A youthful boating adventure becomes an unsettling encounter with nature.

BIG IDEA **Nature overturns the young speaker's self-assurance and remains powerful inside his imagination.**

FOUR EVIDENCE FRAGMENTS · ZOOM IN, THEN EXPLAIN

"an act of stealth"

Moral diction

The speaker recognises secrecy and wrongdoing even before the apparently pleasurable adventure begins.

"Went heaving through the water like a swan;"

Simile

The youthful rower imagines graceful command of the water.

"a huge peak, black and huge,"

Repetition

Scale overwhelms the earlier graceful self-image.

"a trouble to my dreams."

Psychological aftermath

The event continues after physical danger has passed.

FORM

An autobiographical verse extract in unrhymed iambic pentameter, or blank verse.

CONTEXT

Wordsworth's Romantic writing explores the mind's relationship with nature. The extract appears in the posthumous 1850 Prelude.

COMPARE IT WITH…

Storm on the Island: nature overturns human security. Ozymandias: limits of power.

VOICE, TONE & FEELINGS · FOLLOW THE SHIFTS

Taking the boat

SECRETLY EXCITED

The apparent adventure begins with confidence mixed with awareness of wrongdoing.

Mountain encounter

AWED AND AFRAID

A peak appears to pursue the rower; the landscape seems capable of independent action.

After returning

DISTURBED AND REFLECTIVE

The adult narrator describes an enduring change in the child's thoughts and dreams.

FULL POEM: use your anthology. Evidence fragments are prompts for close reading.