

The Solitary Reaper Key Facts

Writer: William Wordsworth | Generated: Jan 26, 2026

Key Facts

- **Full Title:** The Solitary Reaper
- **Original Title:** The Solitary Reaper
- **Author:** William Wordsworth (1770-1850)
- **Written Date:** 1803
- **Published Date:** 1807 ☆☆☆
- **First Collected In:** Poems in Two Volumes (1807) ☆☆☆
- **Publisher:** Longman, Hurst, Rees, and Orme
- **Genre:** Romantic Nature Poem / Lyrical Poem ☆☆☆
- **Form:** Lyric poem of four stanzas, each with eight lines
- **Rhyme Scheme:** ababccdd in each stanza (regular and musical)
- **Total Lines:** 32
- **Total Stanza:** 4
- **Meter:** Iambic tetrameter (each line usually has 8 syllables with 4 beats)
- **Tone:** Peaceful, Musical, Reflective, and Deeply Emotional
- **Point of View:** First-person (the poet as an observer and listener)
- **Climax:** When the poet realizes that the girl's unknown song has deeply touched his heart and will live in his memory forever. "The music in my heart I bore, / Long after it was heard no more."
- **Summary in Short:** The poem describes a Highland girl reaping and singing alone in a field, and how her mysterious song fills the poet's heart with lasting emotion.
- **Famous Line:** "The music in my heart I bore, / Long after it was heard no more." ☆☆☆
- **Atmosphere:** Calm, natural, filled with the sound of her sad and beautiful song
- **Setting:**
- **Time Setting:** A summer or harvest day in the early 19th century

- **Place Setting:** A quiet, green valley in the Scottish Highlands where the solitary girl works alone

Key Notes

- **Original Title - The Solitary Reaper:** The title “The Solitary Reaper” expresses the image of a lonely rural girl working in a field. “Solitary” means alone, and “Reaper” refers to a working woman who cuts crops. At the center of the poem stands this girl who, in the quiet Highland valley, reaps and sings a sad song. The title itself symbolizes the poem’s main emotions: loneliness, labor, nature, and music united in one harmonious scene.
- **Form and Structure:** It is a lyrical poem, which means it expresses deep personal feelings, musical rhythm, and the beauty of nature together. The poem is divided into four stanzas, each consisting of eight lines.
- **Meter:** The poem is written in Iambic Tetrameter, meaning each line has four strong beats (stresses). This rhythm creates a musical flow throughout the poem, making the poet’s feelings move softly like a song. Features:
 - The poem reveals a deep connection between nature and human emotion.
 - The language is simple, musical, and melodious, like a gentle tune.
 - The poet is not part of the scene; he is an observer and listener who is deeply moved by the girl’s song.
 - The meaning of the song is unknown, but its melody remains eternal in the poet’s heart.
 - In the final lines, memory, music, and emotion blend into one timeless experience.