Lines Written in Early Spring

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| Context | * Wordsworth didn’t believe in the original sin – we arrived innocent, liked the idea of the pre-existing soul (Tabula Rasa – blank state) * Believed in the idea that knowledge will corrupt (as happened in the garden of Eden * Inspiration should come naturally, he was profoundly influenced by the landscape of nature |
| A poem about.. | The contrast between nature and mankind. Idealised image of nature which contrasts the destruction of mankind. |
| Form | A,B,A,B rhyme scheme – this alternating rhyme reflects the calm, idealised image of nature  Use of half rhymes “notes” and “thoughts” – shows that there are two sides to this, the sublime side of nature and the side of nature which is ignored, resulting in destruction |
| Language | Capitalisation of ‘N’ in “Nature” – perhaps suggests that it possesses human like qualities, or that it is even God- like – patheism (idea that God is reflected in nature)  “hopped and played” – childlike simplicity  “Enjoy the air it **breathes**” – anthropomorphism, provides nature with human qualities  Paradox “pleasant” and “sad” – demonstrates the two sides, human destruction and the beauty of nature  “lament” – great sense of sorrow – demonstrates passionate and emotional connection to nature  Shifts from physical, sensory “primrose tufts”, concrete nouns to experience and emotiom |
| Imagery | Image of “Spring” – represents new life  Idealised image of nature – possesses human qualities as it “breathes” – nature personified, typical of romantics to invest human emotion in the natural world. |
| Patterns of language | “what man has made of man” – repetition in second and last stanza – demonstrating that humans are self-corrupting, ignorant and destructive, abuse each other  Repetition shows that it is a recurring thought |
| Punctuation and grammar | Use of exclamative at the end “What man has made of man!” – highly emotive, demonstrates the emotion invested in nature, sense of sorrow at the destruction of nature at the hands of humans  End-stopped line – naturally forces the reader to pause, perhaps to make the reader think about the destruction which mankind inflicts upon nature.  May use end stopped lines because the poem features a strict rhyme scheme - the combination of end rhyme and the completion of syntactical units work well together. |