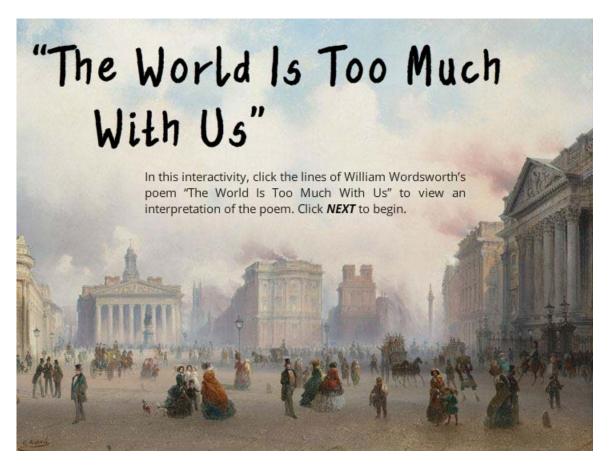
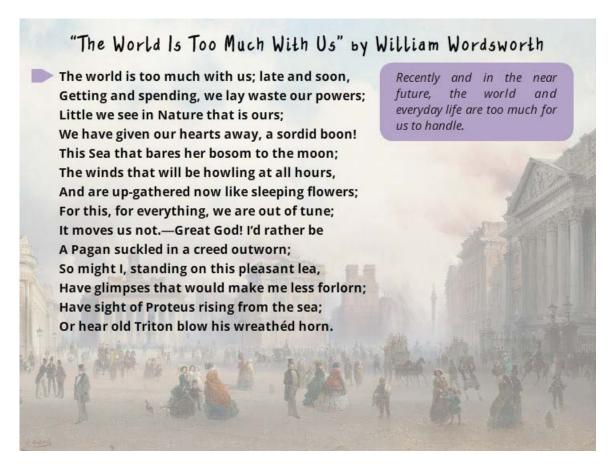
Introduction



In this interactivity, click the lines of William Wordsworth's poem "The World Is Too Much With Us" to view an interpretation of the poem. Click *NEXT* to begin.



Line 1

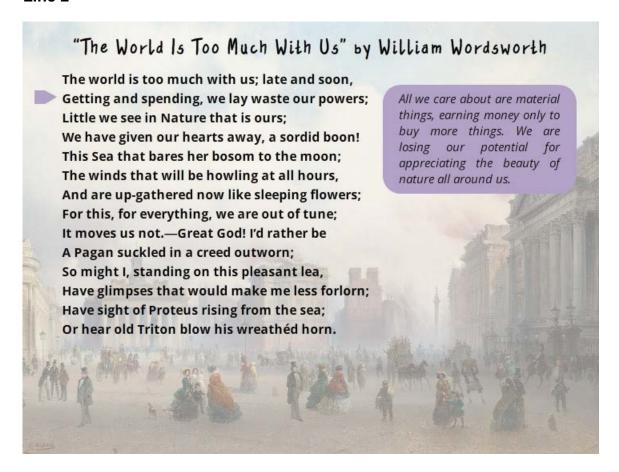


The world is too much with us; late and soon,

Recently and in the near future, the world and everyday life are too much for us to handle.



Line 2

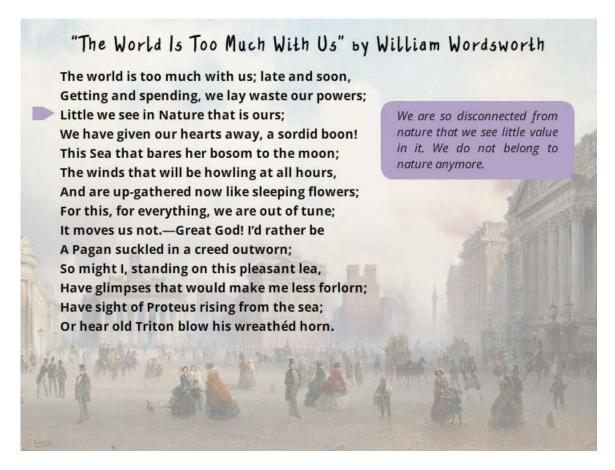


Getting and spending, we lay waste our powers;

All we care about are material things, earning money only to buy more things. We are losing our potential for appreciating the beauty of nature all around us.



Line 3

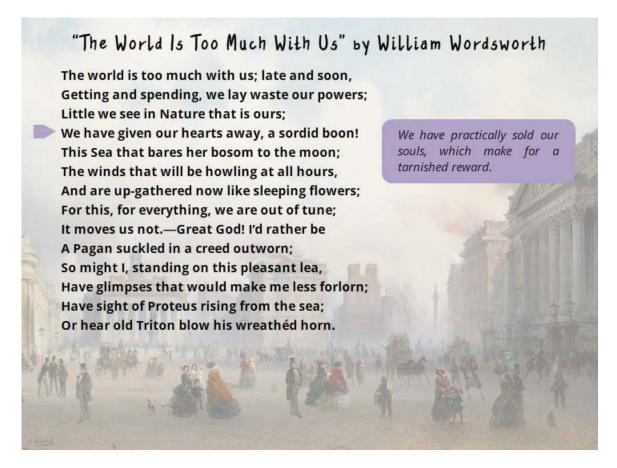


Little we see in Nature that is ours;

We are so disconnected from nature that we see little value in it. We do not belong to nature anymore.



Line 4

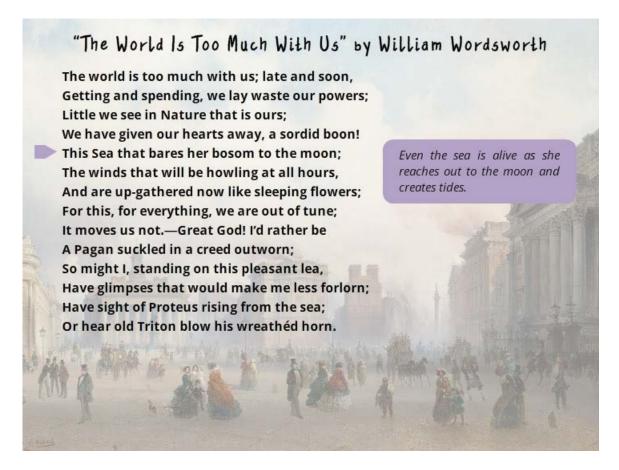


We have given our hearts away, a sordid boon!

We have practically sold our souls, which make for a tarnished reward.



Line 5

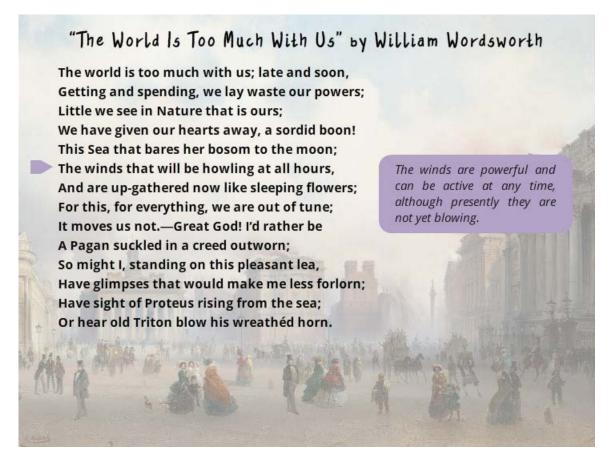


This Sea that bares her bosom to the moon;

Even the sea is alive as she reaches out to the moon and creates tides.



Line 6

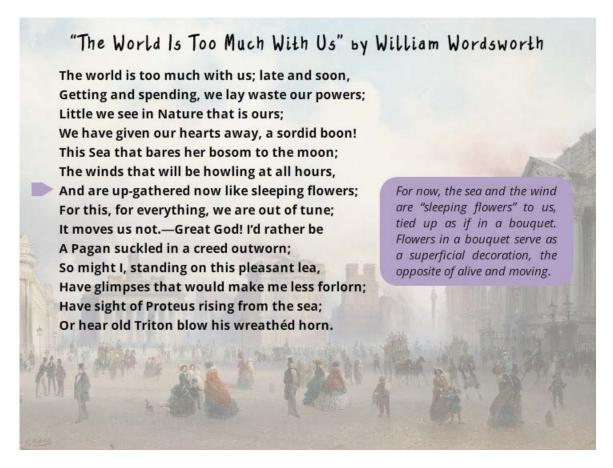


The winds that will be howling at all hours,

The winds are powerful and can be active at any time, although presently they are not yet blowing.



Line 7

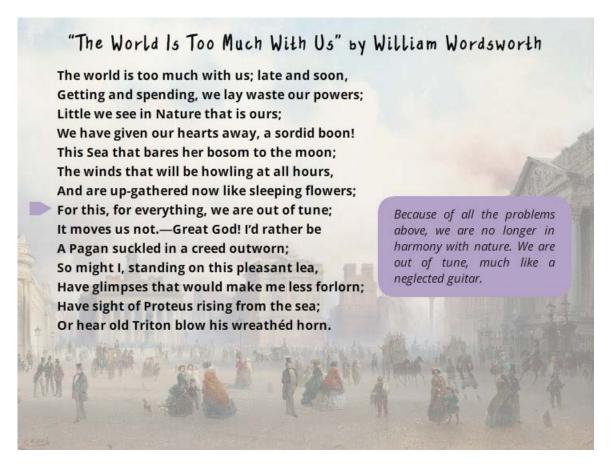


And are up-gathered now like sleeping flowers;

For now, the sea and the wind are "sleeping flowers" to us, tied up as if in a bouquet. Flowers in a bouquet serve as a superficial decoration, the opposite of alive and moving.



Line 8

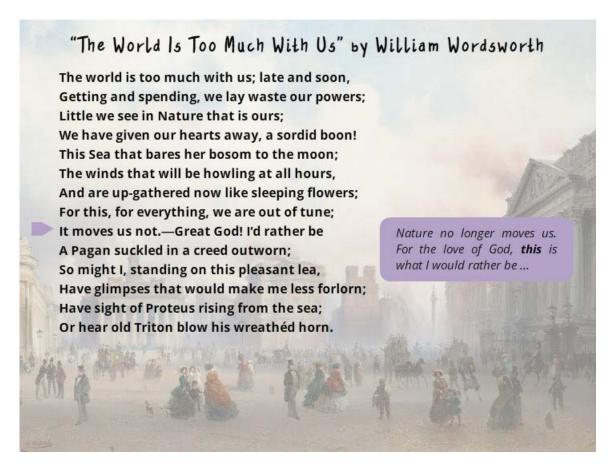


For this, for everything, we are out of tune;

Because of all the problems above, we are no longer in harmony with nature. We are out of tune, much like a neglected guitar.



Line 9

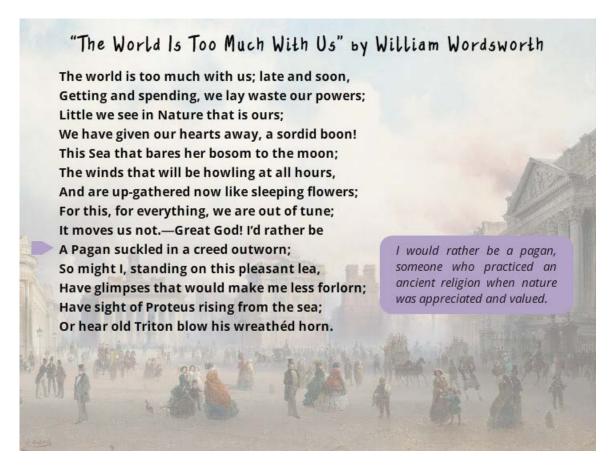


It moves us not.—Great God! I'd rather be

Nature no longer moves us. For the love of God, this is what I would rather be ...



Line 10

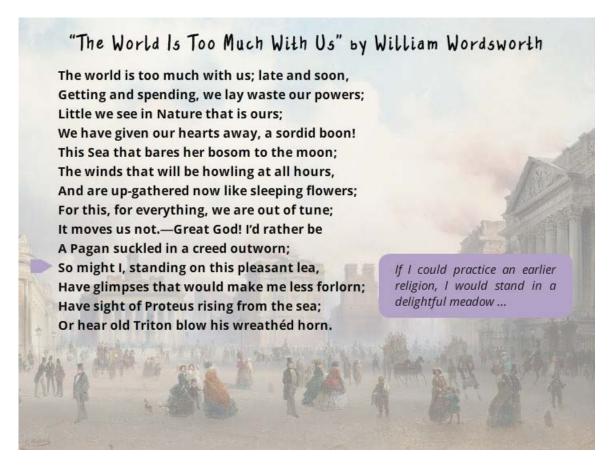


A Pagan suckled in a creed outworn;

I would rather be a pagan, someone who practiced an ancient religion when nature was appreciated and valued.



Line 11



So might I, standing on this pleasant lea,

If I could practice an earlier religion, I would stand in a delightful meadow ...



Line 12

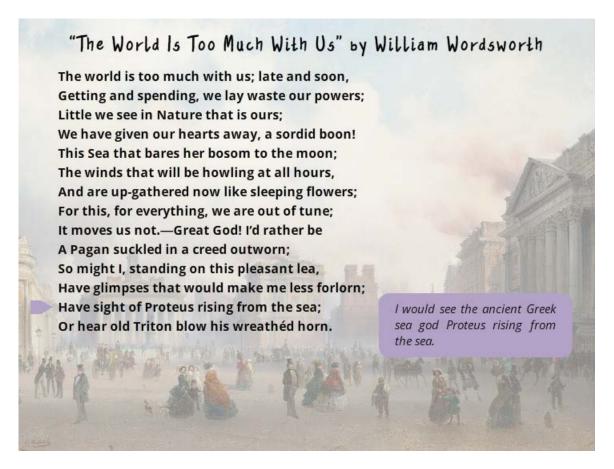


Have glimpses that would make me less forlorn;

I would experience things that do not make me feel so lonely and sad.



Line 13



Have sight of Proteus rising from the sea;

I would see the ancient Greek sea god Proteus rising from the sea.



Line 14



Or hear old Triton blow his wreathéd horn.

Or I would hear the ancient Greek sea god Triton blow his horn made of conch shell.

