

### Short Questions on We are Seven

In William Wordsworth's poem, what is the significance of the repetitive words in "We Are Seven?" "We are Seven," by William Wordsworth.

In [William Wordsworth](#)'s poem, "We are Seven," the line that is repeated in one form or another is "we are seven."

It is repeated twice as "we are seven," and once as "seven are we."

Repetition in poetry is used to stress, in this case, an idea. So that the reader does not miss the point, the poet will often repeat it.

In this poem, the little girl points out several times, when asked the number of children in her family, "we are seven." The speaker's confusion arises because two of the seven children in this family are buried in the graveyard next to the child's cottage. In his adult mind, it means they are "gone."

However, for the eight-year old child that is explaining, she sees the brother and sister she has lost as no more distant to her than her siblings at sea, and the two who now live in Conway. In this child's mind, the fact that they have passed on does not convey a sense of loss to her.

She visits with them regularly as she does her chores or sings to them...

"My stockings there I often knit, My kerchief there I hem; And there upon the ground I sit, And sing a song to them.

The little girl even explains that when her sister dies, before her brother passes, they both still play where her sister rests:

"So in the church-yard she was laid; And, when the grass was dry, Together round her grave we played, My brother John and I.

In essence, the adult sees these children having left their life on earth to live in heaven, but for the little girl, she is not sad as she feels the presence of her siblings just as clearly as if they were sitting next to her.

What is the main idea of the poem "We are Seven"?

There are two key themes in this poem by [William Wordsworth](#). The first is the prevalence of death in childhood, a state of affairs the speaker laments in the opening stanza, in which he asks what "a simple child" should "know of death." In the poem, it is described how two out of seven children are now buried in the churchyard near a cottage the speaker encounters on his travels; their living sibling, a girl of eight, has therefore been brought into close contact with death. In part, then, the speaker seems to be trying to draw attention to the prevalence of childhood death.

The other key theme is the innocence of childhood. In the opening stanza it is asked what a "simple child" can possibly understand of death. The speaker goes on to explain how, despite his efforts to explain that dead children are no longer here on earth, the eight year old he is speaking to simply does not understand death. Her innocence is such that she insists adamantly, "we are seven," despite the fact that two of her siblings are buried in the churchyard.

Describing them as Jane and John, the child gives an illustration of her innocence in her tales of how she and John would play around Jane's grave before John, too, was taken. There is no sense from the child that death has taken her siblings away from her; instead, she sings to them, sits on their grave to do her knitting, and considers them very much part of her family. This astonishes the speaker, but it is given as evidence of the child's purity of spirit, not to truly understand or mourn death as adults do.

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