*Extract from* ***The Prelude*** by William Wordsworth

One summer evening (led by her) I found

A little boat tied to a willow tree

Within a rocky cove, its usual home.

Straight I unloosed her chain, and stepping in 360

Pushed from the shore. It was an act of stealth

And troubled pleasure, nor without the voice

1. Explain how, at lines 365-367, Wordsworth uses **verbs** and **adjectives** to portray the beauty of the lake.

Of mountain-echoes did my boat move on;

Leaving behind her still, on either side,

Small circles glittering idly in the moon, 365

Until they melted all into one track

1. Select an **adjective** that shows how Wordsworth initially felt as he rowed out in the stolen boat.
2. Explain which **words** show Wordsworth’s determination.

Of sparkling light. But now, like one who rows,

Proud of his skill, to reach a chosen point

With an unswerving line, I fixed my view

Upon the summit of a craggy ridge, 370

The horizon’s utmost boundary; far above

Was nothing but the stars and the grey sky.

1. Select an **adverb** that conveys Wordsworth’s passion for rowing out and a **verb** that conveys his strength. Explain what might be giving him the strength.

She was an elfin pinnace; lustily

I dipped my oars into the silent lake,

And, as I rose upon the stroke, my boat 375

Went heaving through the water like a swan;

When, from behind that craggy steep till then

The horizon’s bound, a huge peak, black and huge,

1. Consider Wordsworth’s use of **personification** as you read through this section:

**Highlight the words that make the mountain seem as though it is a living thing.**

As if with voluntary power instinct,

Upreared its head. I struck and struck again, 380

And growing still in stature the grim shape

Towered up between me and the stars, and still,

For so it seemed, with purpose of its own

And measured motion like a living thing,

Strode after me. With trembling oars I turned, 385

And through the silent water stole my way

Back to the covert of the willow tree;

There in her mooring-place I left my bark, –

And through the meadows homeward went, in grave

1. From line 385 select an **adjective** that portrays what effect this image had on Wordsworth.
2. Select two more adjectives (from lines 389-9) that reinforce the effect on Wordsworth.
3. Select a **phrase** that shows the prolonged effect the image of this peak had on Wordsworth.

And serious mood; but after I had seen 390

That spectacle, for many days, my brain

Worked with a dim and undetermined sense

Of unknown modes of being; o’er my thoughts

There hung a darkness, call it solitude

Or blank desertion. No familiar shapes 395

Remained, no pleasant images of trees,

Of sea or sky, no colours of green fields;

But huge and mighty forms, that do not live

Like living men, moved slowly through the mind 400

1. Overall, what do you think Wordsworth is saying about the power of nature?

By day, and were a trouble to my dreams.