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My first text is preludes by William Wordsworth and my second text is a speech made by Greta Thunberg a 16 year old climate activist who spoke at the UN Climate Change Conference in on the 15th of December 2018. My global issue is human relationship to nature and how it has changed over time so first I'm going to start with The Prelude by William Wordsworth. It was published in 1850. The poem starts off with the narrator being quite in control of the situation and how he is doing is going for a boat ride for pleasure.

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This can be seen in quite an active stealth untroubled pleasure. So he's doing this for fun and throughout. Then when it gets to the middle of the poem he sees this massive mountain and gets quite scared by it because he realises suddenly how insignificant he is in comparison to nature. This can be seen in the quote 'huge peak blackened huge' and he also personifies this mountain in the quote 'as if with voluntary power instinct'. So he feels like this mountain is almost alive and coming after him and he's quite scared by this because he has grown up in the industrial revolution where Christianity would have been the main religion.

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And that teaches that humanity is above nature and that God has given nature to humans to use to better our quality of life. But that is not what this is not what Williams Wordsworth sees when he is rowing his boat. He is quite scared by this and this can be seen in the quote 'with trembling oars'. So he you know he turns changed direction and starts rowing back and you start seeing this mountain almost come closer to him. And when he gets back off the boat that image still stays with him.

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So he's still trying to wrap his mind around how small he feels in comparison to nature. And that goes against the ideas that he's grown up with and this can be seen in the quote 'O'er my thoughts there hung a darkness'. So he's quite troubled by the feeling of insignificance. Moving on to the second text the speech by Greta Thunberg. She uses quite simple vocabulary and she uses a lot of collective pronouns. For example we our I feel this makes her speech quite powerful as she's being very inclusive with her speech.

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So that makes it very hard to disagree with because she's saying I'm doing this for the benefit of everybody not just herself. So the use of simple language makes her speech quite powerful because she's being very direct. She's not using very eloquent vocabulary to show her meaning she's being quite blunt with it. This is what we need to do. Why aren't we doing it. And I think that's the main aim of what she wants. She wants to be quite clear with people because people have been talking about climate change for a long time but nothing has happened about it.

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So she feels like someone needs to just be there make it very clear and make it very blunt to everybody what needs to happen. To make it happen. A nice line that she says is 'you say you love your children above all else and yet you are stealing their future in front of their very eyes'. The verb stealing is very powerful and it connotes crime and it shows that she feels what we're doing at the moment is a crime against humanity. We are just trashing the biosphere and it gives a sense of urgency and gives a sense that climate change is a real problem and that we really need to face it now because in the last couple of years where we actually can. Another quite interesting thing is she repeats the word luxury a lot.

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She sees our life that we are living at the moment as a luxury and that is not beneficial and that we need to change the way we live because it is not helping our world. It's not helping the earth. She also says the luxury of the few is built on the suffering of the many and that we as developed countries will drastically need to change our way of life our way of consumerism in order to give less developed countries also a chance to become more developed and have a better quality of life. She repeats the word sacrificed quite a bit.

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She's saying our civilization is being sacrificed for money and being sacrificed so that rich people can have luxury and money and that this is not right. This is short sighted and idiotic and we need to wake up and change this because it's not going to better our lives. It's just going to better a few people's lives for maybe one or two generations and then it's all lost. The main theme for each literary text is different. So The Prelude by William Wordsworth is about feeling insignificant, small and powerless compared to the enormity of nature but Greta Thunberg's speech is almost about the opposite.

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It's about how we have become too powerful and too short sighted and that we have started destroying our planet. I think it’s quite interesting how our perspectives on nature has changed so drastically in the past hundred seventy or so years. We have gone from fearing and respecting nature and not being being able to do anything about it. To having the technology and the short sightedness and greed to nearly destroy it. Both texts have fear as a main theme throughout Greta Thunberg's fear is that we won't act on climate change on time and make a difference.

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This can be seen in the quote 'You have ignored us in the past and you will ignore us again'. So she is acknowledging that we are going to be ignored and she feels the only way that anything is going to be done is through a revolution. Wordworth's fear is the feeling of insignificance towards himself in comparison to nature and the earth and how large that is because he has been brought up in a society that constantly tells him that he and humanity is greater than nature and the natural world. And he realizes in this extract of The Prelude that that is not the case and it kind of throws him into depression.

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This can be seen in the quote 'O'er my thoughts. There hung a darkness'. So he's still trying to wrap his head around how how small he really is in comparison to everything else.

[00:08:50.160]

Okay. Thank you.

[00:08:51.870]

So how do you think that the human human's relationship to nature has changed in the time when Wordsworth was writing to the time of Greta Thunberg's speech and how is that reflected in the texts.

[00:09:08.310]

Well in William Wordsworth time nature was still quite prevalent. We had only kind of just started the industrial revolution and most most of England was still quite rural. And this can be seen in the act of him rowing on a lake at night was quite normal whereas in GretaThunburg speech it's that's not something her generation could do because a lot of it has been destroyed so much so that is worrying how little we have left.

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Okay and how does the language that they both use they both describe nature but they use quite different language to do that.

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How does that language contrast? Williams Wordsworth uses quite, how he describes nature something very very large something that he could barely wrap his mind around and something that he was quite scared of because of how powerful it was. Whereas Greta Thunberg is talking about well in her speech she is talking about how we are sacrificing our biosphere for money for monetary gain. And she is quite worried about how little nature we have left and how quickly we are destroying it for something as virtual as money. The word biosphere is quite interesting the way she uses it.

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Biosphere would mean that we are all in a circle.

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We are all equal and nothing is above the other. And if something dies it affects everything else in the biosphere. So she is not thinking that humanity is above nature but rather that we are part of it. As a part of a whole rather than above it

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What are the points of commonality that Wordsworth and Greta Thunberg share in their language around nature?

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Both of them have a great love for nature. In the beginning of The Prelude Wordsworth uses a line for example 'Small circles glittering idly in the moon' shows a kind of a calm and beautiful idea of what nature is and Greta, Greta sees nature as a necessity. We need it to stay alive and it is beautiful and she wants future generations to be able to experience the same thing. She says in 'the year 2078 I will celebrate my 75th birthday. If I have children maybe they will spend that day with me. Maybe they will ask me about you. Maybe they will ask why you didn't do anything.'

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She really wants that her children and her grandchildren can experience nature and can experience the beauty of it. And that it is unfair if we rob it from them.

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And finally if you imagine the voice of Wordsworth and the voice of Thunberg as they come across in these extracts What do you think they might say to each other/have to say to each other if they were to meet now?

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I think they both come at the idea of nature from two very different perspectives. William Wordsworth comes from the perspective of feeling like he is greater mightier than nature and then gets put in his place almost when he sees this mountain this massive mountain which is so much greater than he is and Greta sees nature sees us as part of nature already. So she is already almost has a more mature view than William. William Wordsworth. I think what they would say to each other is I think Greta would have a lot to say and she would be saying that we need to we are part of it. We're not above it and I think William would be saying the same thing.

[00:14:04.860]

Okay so they would meet and agree okay. Thank you.