

SPRING

Nothing is so beautiful as Spring-
When weeds in wheels, shoot long and lovely and lush;
Thrush's eggs look little low heavens, and thrush
Through the echoing timber does so rinse and wring
The ear, it strikes like lightnings to hear him sing;
The glassy peartree leaves and blooms, they brush
The descending blue; that blue is all in a rush
With richness, the racing lambs too have fair their fling.
What is all this juice and all this joy?
A strain of the earth's sweet being in the beginning
In Eden garden. - Have, get, before it cloy.
Before it cloud, Christ, lord and sour with sinning
Innocent mind and Mayday in girl and boy
Most, O maid's child, thy choice and worthy the winning

Poet

Gerard Manley Hopkins is one of the three or four greatest poets of the Victorian. He is regarded by different readers as the greatest Victorian poet of religion, of nature, and melancholy. However because his style was so radically different from that of his contemporaries, his best poems were not accepted for publication during his lifetime.

Pertinent question/Pre-reading activities

If you had to create a perfect world, what would it look like? If you could remove one thing from this world to make it better what would it be and why?

General discussion

The speaker declares that nothing is as beautiful as spring. Images of the season's lushness are provided to reinforce this message. In the first octave the speaker celebrates the beauty of

nature and the profound effect it has on man. The act of paying close attention to the natural world, and then allowing it to fill him with awe, seems to be of great importance to the speaker of this poem.

The celebration of beauty is also closely linked with his contemplation of theology and the act of prayer. In the final sestet, the physical descriptions fall away, and the poem instead engages on a level of contemplation, questioning and prayer. This indicates the fact that the