

- The sense of place is also gained in this poem and the verb “*blossomed*” suggests the theme of “new beginnings” which is commonly associated with Spring.
- The personification of the pear-tree through the verb “*leans*” also may imply the gentle nature of Spring - it does not typically contain harsh weather like snow or lightning. “*Scatter*” also provokes images of confetti, which may suggest that the rural English Spring is something which should be celebrated (perhaps with as much vigour as a wedding?).
- The imagery of birds like “*swallows*” and “*thrushes*” (animals which Browning seems particularly enthralled with) gives the poem a sense of freedom. This, of course, is ironic as Browning cannot return to England due to the woman he had married. However, Browning does not seem bitter about this, but rather reminiscent of nature’s simple beauty.
- The imagery of “*buttercups*” as like golden treasure may suggest the value of Springtime and the fact that many British people do not appreciate it. This mirrors the word “*unaware*” in stanza 1, where Browning seemingly criticises our complacency about nature.
- In contrast, the poet writes of the Italian’s “*gaudy melon-flower!*” which seems bright and unnatural compared to the uncomplicated “*buttercup*”. This portrays the purity of English flowers, compared with the artificial and distasteful Italian flowers. This gives a deep sense of Browning’s longing and desire to return home.



Themes:

- **Sense of place** - where Browning is vs. where he wants to be.
- **Memory** - Browning can vividly recall the thrushes’ songs and how the trees blossom.
- **Romanticism** - Browning’s highly stylised view of nature’s perfection and how he is in awe of it.
- **Domestic bliss** - Browning longs to return to something which may seem much less exciting and interesting than Italy.
- **Nature** - obviously!
- **Patriotism**